WIN! A LOG HOME ...and more

Fall Fixup Guide

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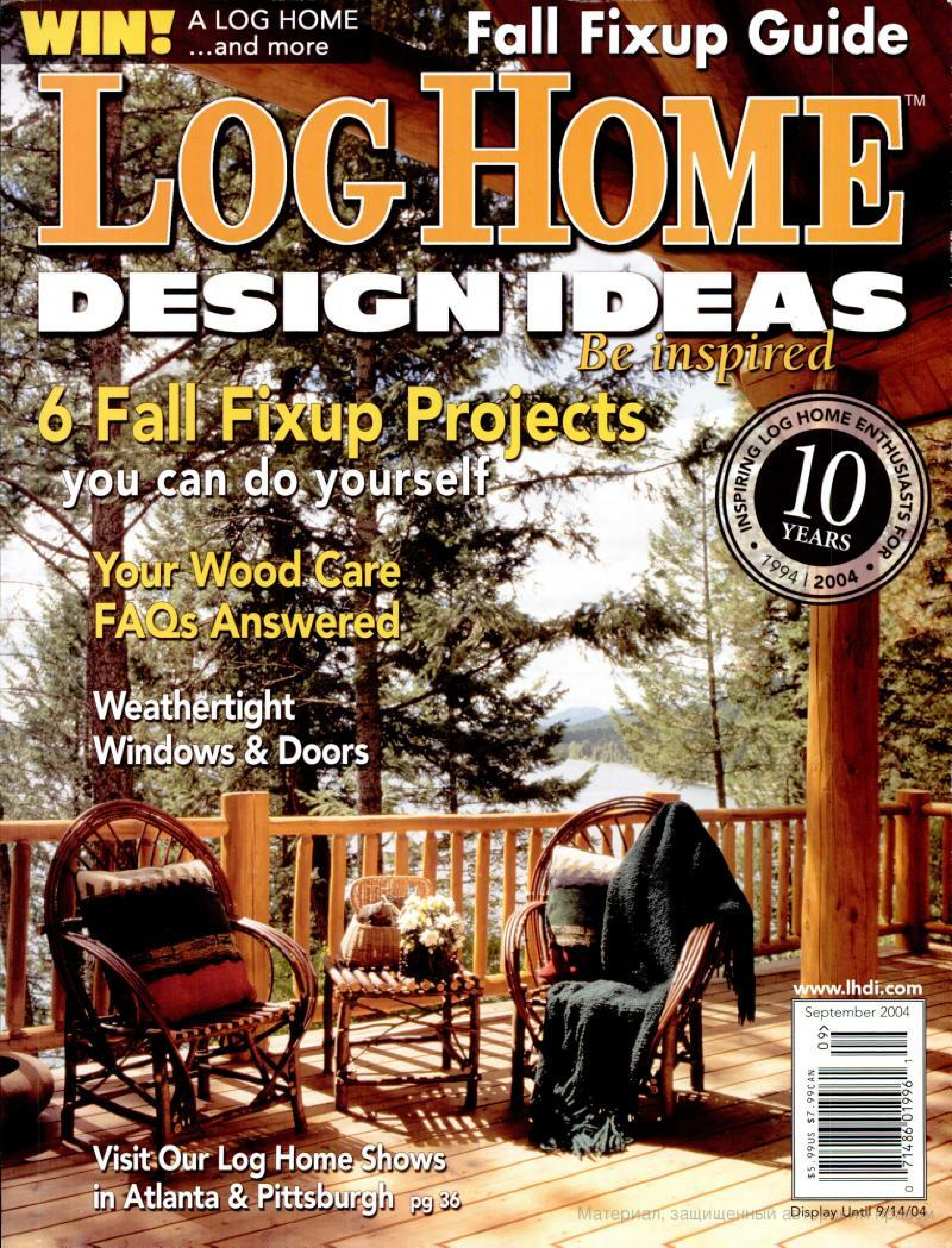

6 Fall Fixup Projects you can do yourself

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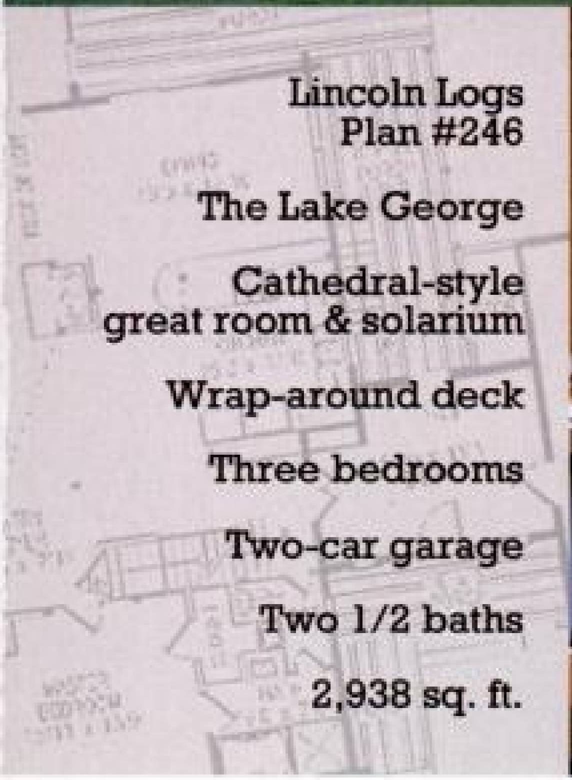
Another Lincoln Logs Original

The Lake George



Lincoln Logs
Plan #246

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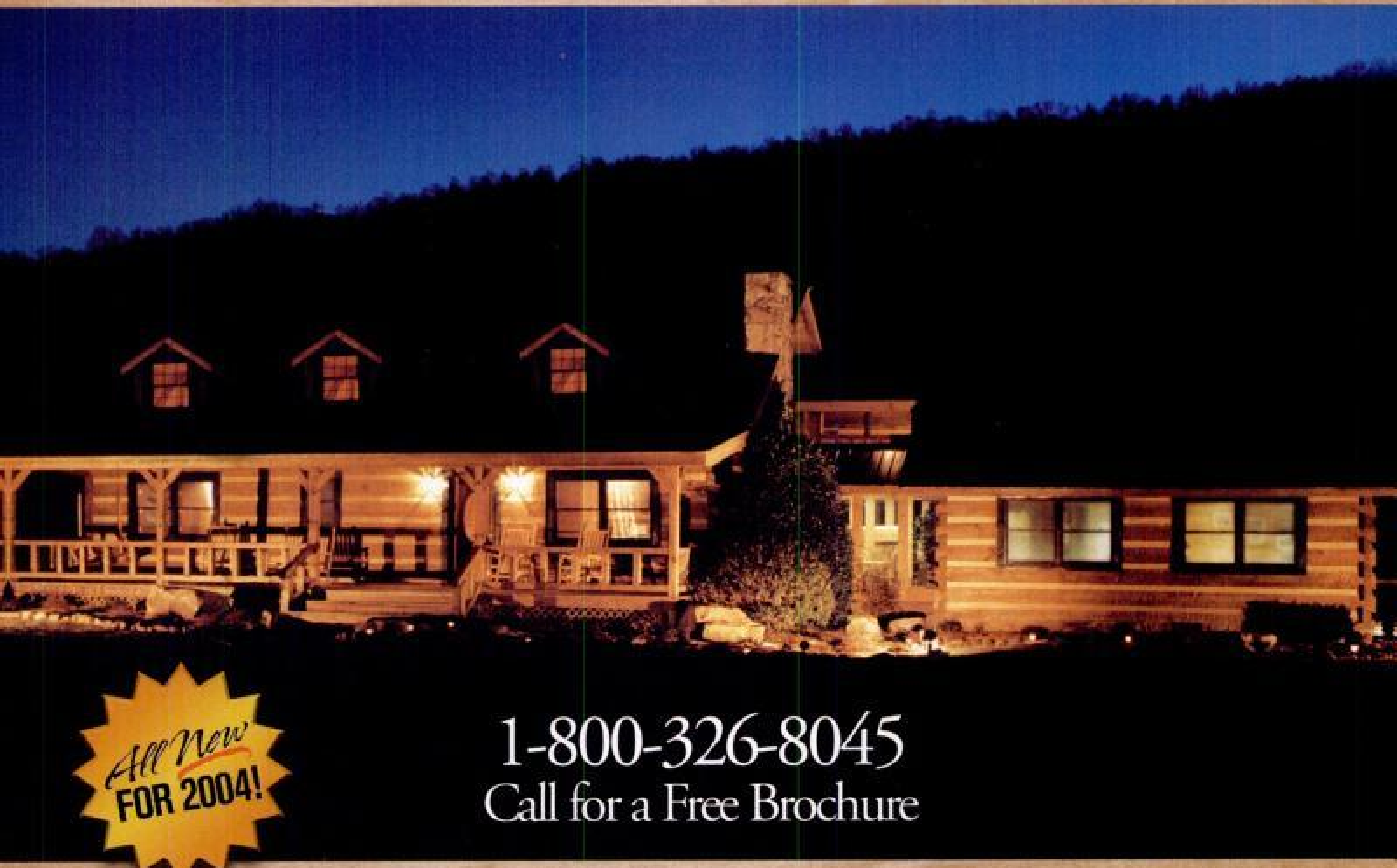

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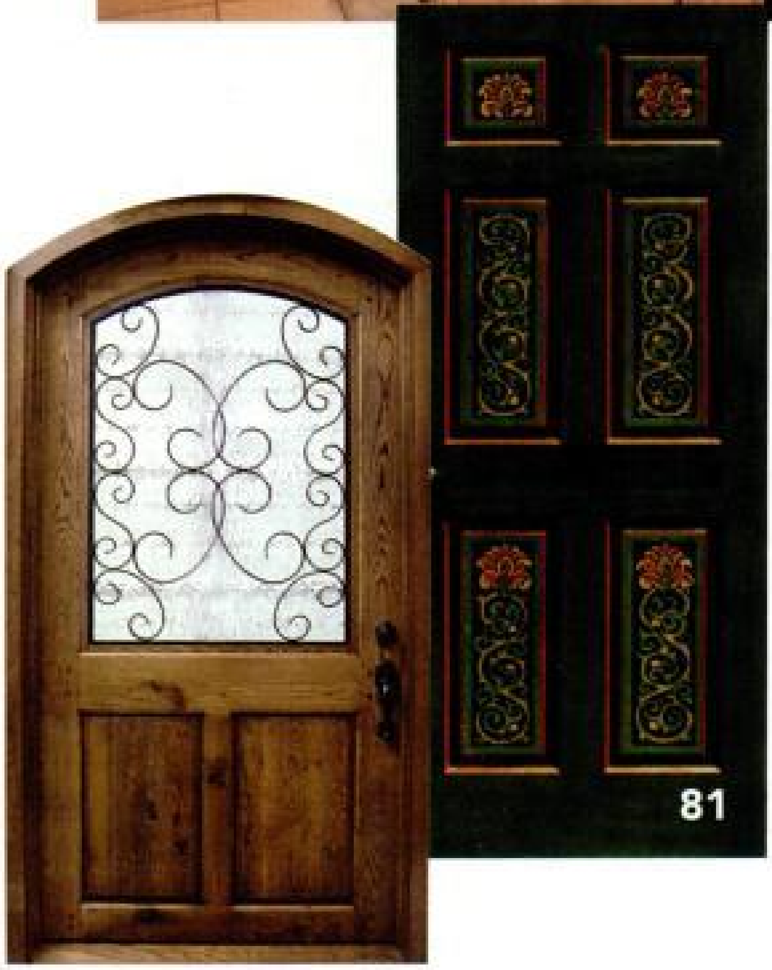

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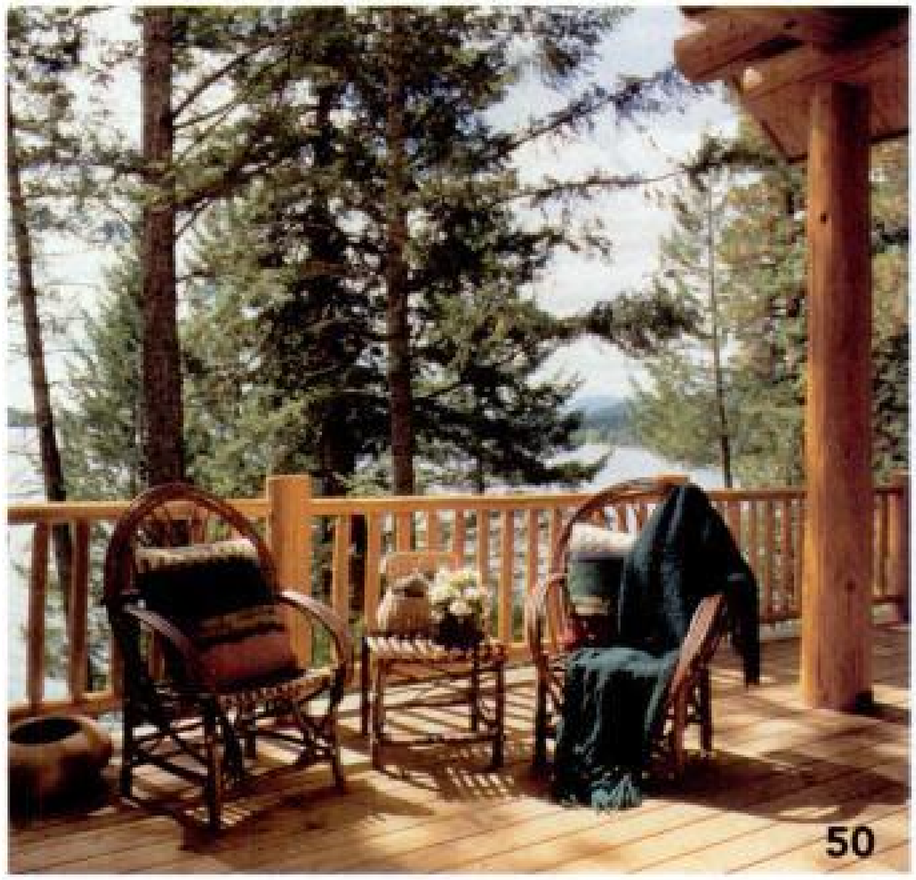

ON THE COVER
Before you can sit back and enjoy the beautiful fall weather from your deck, you need to make sure your home is in tip-top shape and ready for winter. For 6 easy fall fixup projects you can do yourself, see page 50.

Photo Courtesy Rocky Mountain Log Homes/By Roger Wade

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Photos By Roger Wade/Courtesy Alpine Log Homes (top); By Roger Wade/Courtesy Wilderness Log Homes (middle); Courtesy Jason Perkins and Steve O'Loughlin (bottom, left to right)

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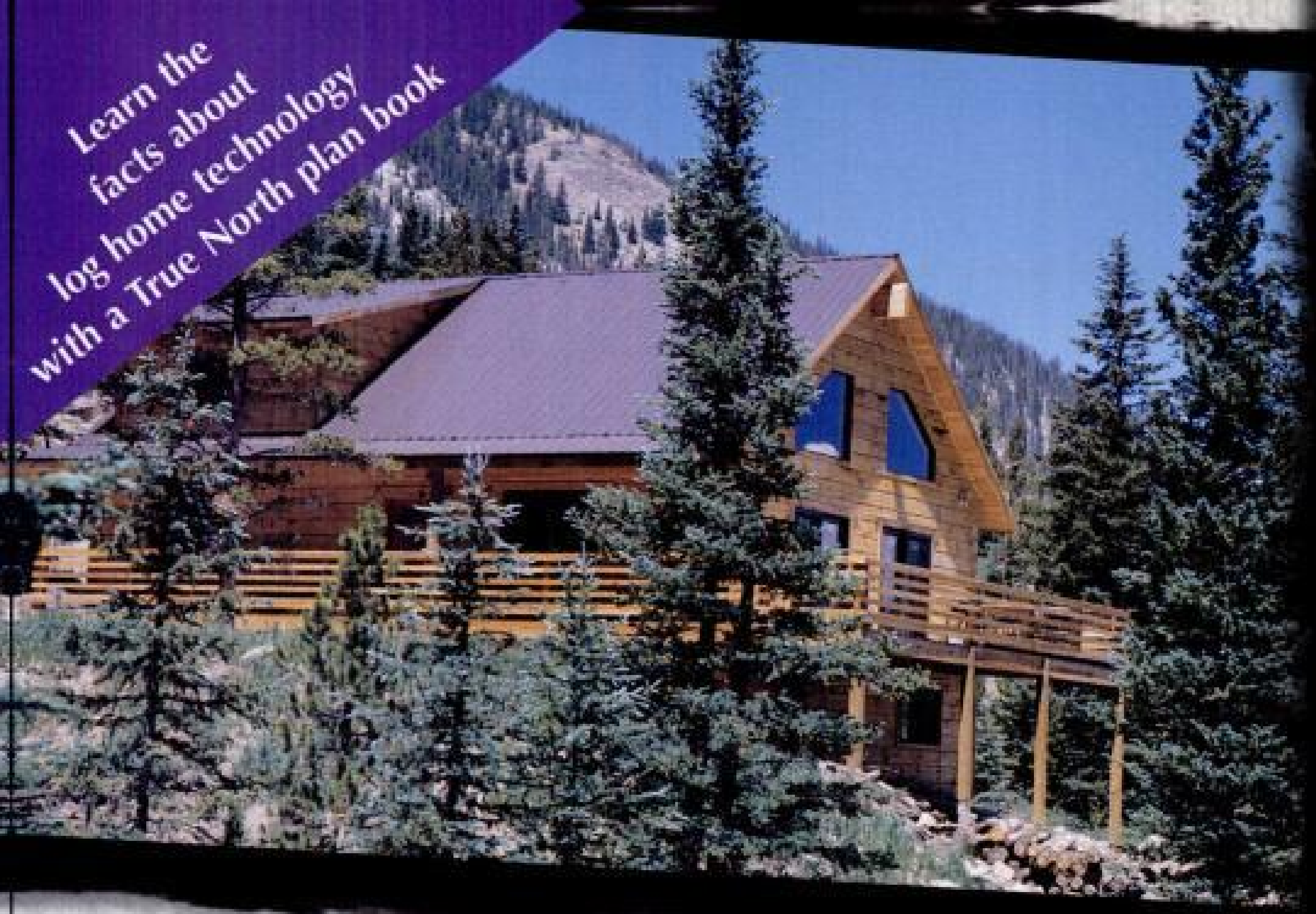

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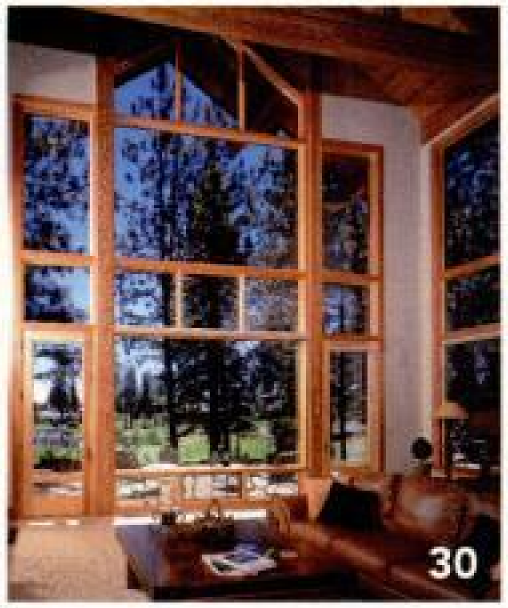

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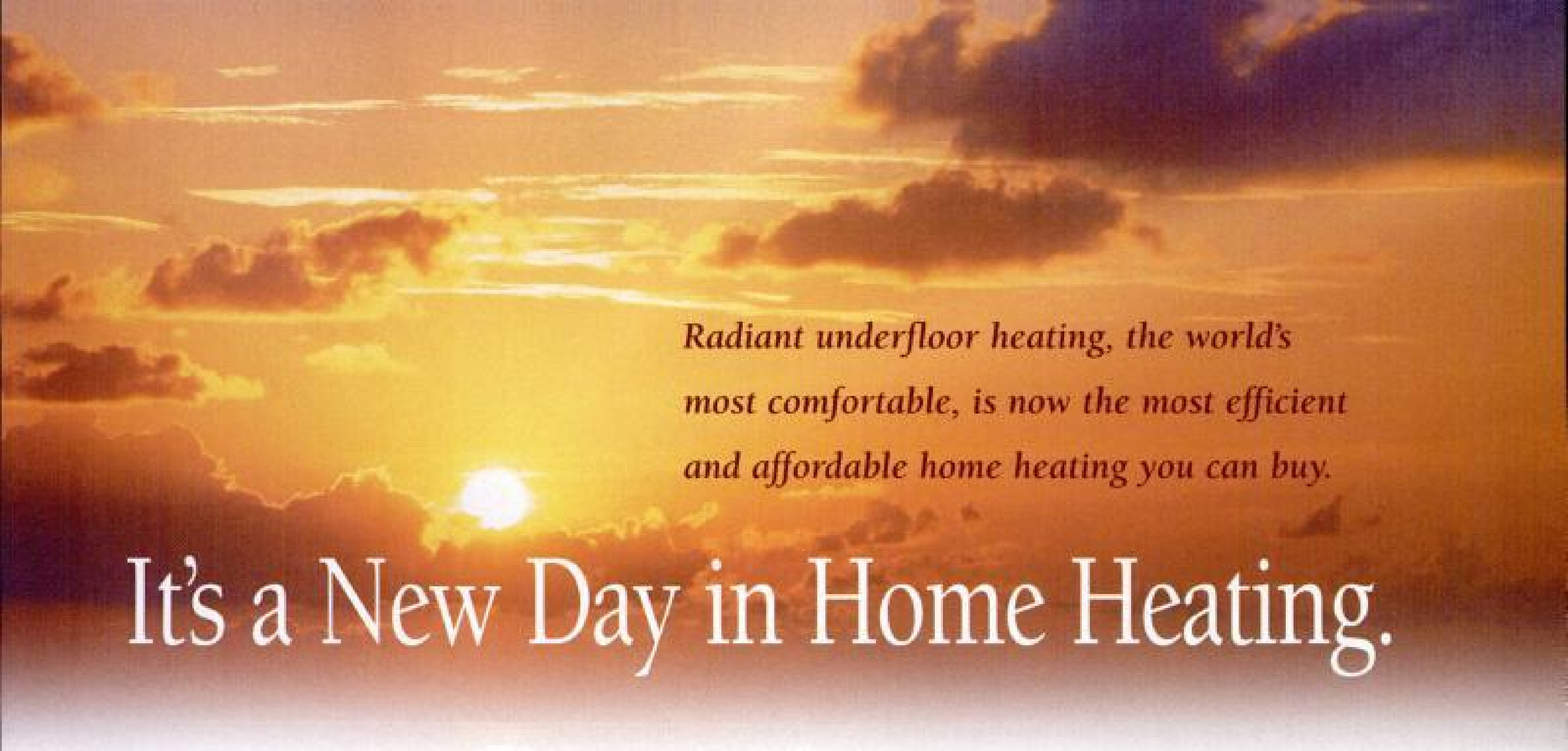

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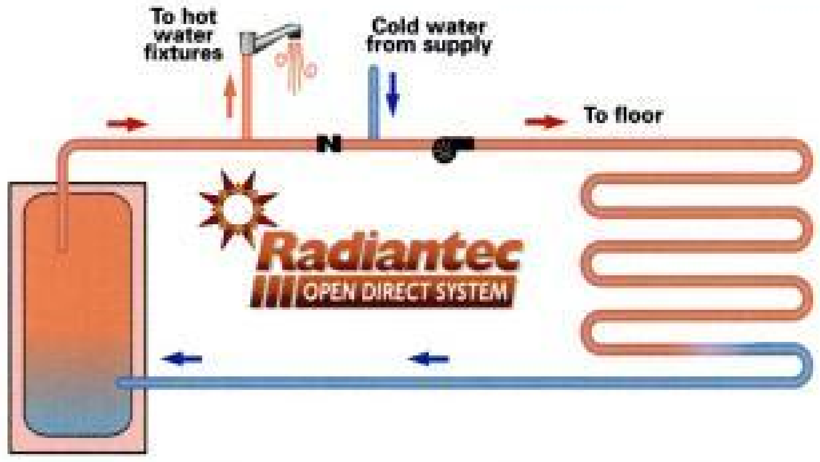

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An Ugly Train

and why I can't part with it

Sitting on a shelf in my office at home is one of the ugliest art projects ever crafted by the hands of a child. It's a sort-of-oval cut out of a plywood-like material, maybe 20 inches in diameter, complete with rough edges and a notch at the top where the saw didn't quite line up with its starting point. The pencil-drawn outline of a smiling train engine can be seen in the center of the circle; some of the engine has been filled in with light blue paint and some of it is covered with some sort of glossy paper that was torn and glued to the plywood. Across the top, painted in large light blue letters, is the name "Tessie."

That would be me. Until I was old enough to know better, I let family and friends call me by that nickname, so it appears on many of the craft projects I've saved from my childhood. Even though I hate that name — and think the train engine is ugly! — I cannot part ways with the plywood artwork. I am a saver, you see, and a terribly sentimental one at that.

What kind of sentimentality could I have toward an ugly piece of artwork, you're probably wondering? Well, even though I don't remember drawing and painting the train, I know I did it at Aunt Lela and Uncle Wally's house because that's where we found it when Aunt Lela died a few years back. Seems she was sentimental too.

So the almost-oval reminds me of Lela and Wally, and their house in the woods where I spent so much time as a child. I think the wood was cut out of a piece of countertop being installed in the house, which was built when I was about 4. The paint was probably left over from the newly-plastered walls.

All I have to do is look at that ugly painting and I am immediately connected to my aunt and uncle, to their home and the woods behind it that we used to tromp through, to the endless games of 500 Rummy and Slapjack played at the card table in the den, and to the best chocolate chip cookies I ever tasted. And then I smile, and I look at the ugly plywood again, and I don't think it's quite so ugly or silly as I did a few moments earlier.

This is the wonderful thing about making a connection — with an item, a person, a place. It's no longer a piece of scrapwood, or a stranger you met by chance, or a favorite spot on the beach. Suddenly it becomes much more, a connection to memories and emotions that can't be replaced but can be easily conjured.

For some of you, I know such a connection is what drew you to a log home. You remember a piece of your childhood — a favorite TV show depicting settlers living in a log cabin, your first Lincoln Logs playset, a family vacation at Old Faithful Lodge in Yellowstone National Park — and you instantly feel a warm connection to log homes.

Whatever is fueling your dream, remember that building the home is only half the journey. Once you've recreated that connection from long ago, you need to take care of the home to ensure you'll enjoy life within its walls for a long time to come. Whether you're planning, building or already living in your log home, you'll find plenty of useful advice and tips in this, our annual Fall Fixup Guide. So check out the expert advice offered in our columns and features, then get out there and take care of your logs. It's work, but the good kind. The kind that builds connections.

Teresa

Teresa Hilgenberg, Editor
thilgenberg@aimmedia.com

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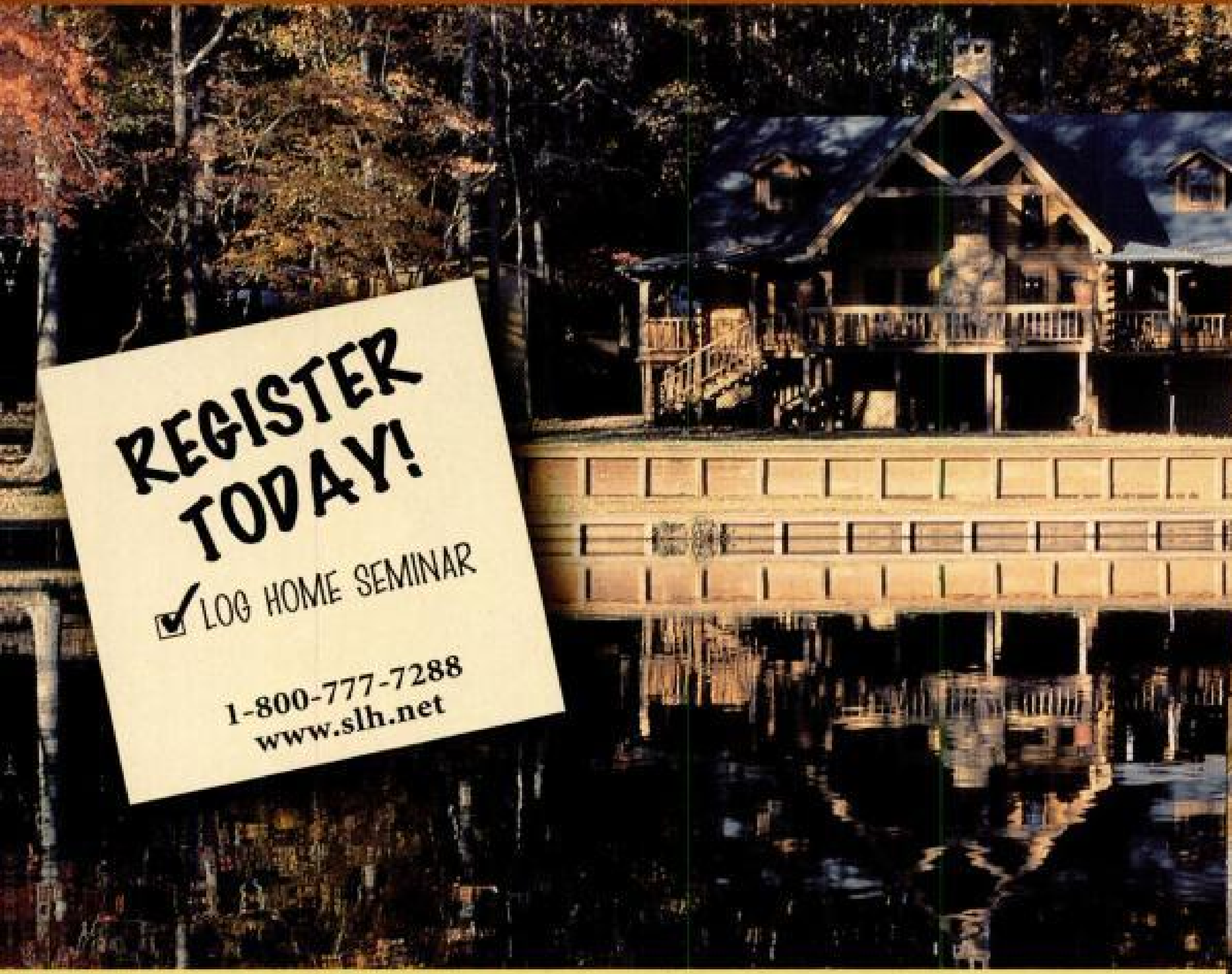

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We're celebrating our 10th Anniversary.

Since 1994, we have been educating and inspiring log home enthusiasts across North America. We've changed a lot over the years, growing from a quarterly to bimonthly to 10 issues a year. We've watched the industry grow and have shared the stories of more than 200 homeowners already living their dream. But one thing hasn't changed, and that's our commitment to you. To say thanks, we're celebrating our 10th year in a big way with an Anniversary Giveaway. One lucky winner will be one step closer to their log home dream when they win a log package from Appalachian Log Homes. Another lucky winner will take home a handcrafted log billiard table from Roaring Fork Custom Billiards & Furniture. And throughout the year, we will be awarding 100 subscriptions and Step-By-Step CD-ROMs to contest entrants — that's 10 each month in our first 10 issues of the year.

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LOGHOMEGIVEAWAY

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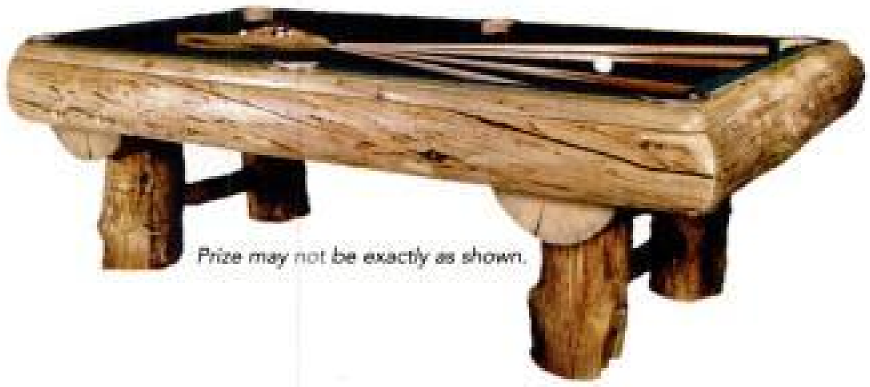
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How to Enter

Write the answer to the question "What American president lived in a log cabin and is pictured on the penny?" on a postcard, along with your name, address, city/state/zip code, home and daytime phone numbers, and mail it to Log Home Design Ideas, 10th Anniversary Giveaway, 1620 S. Lawe St., Ste. 2, Appleton, WI 54915. You can also enter by answering the question and filling out the electronic form on our website, www.lhdi.com. *See page 148 for complete contest rules.*

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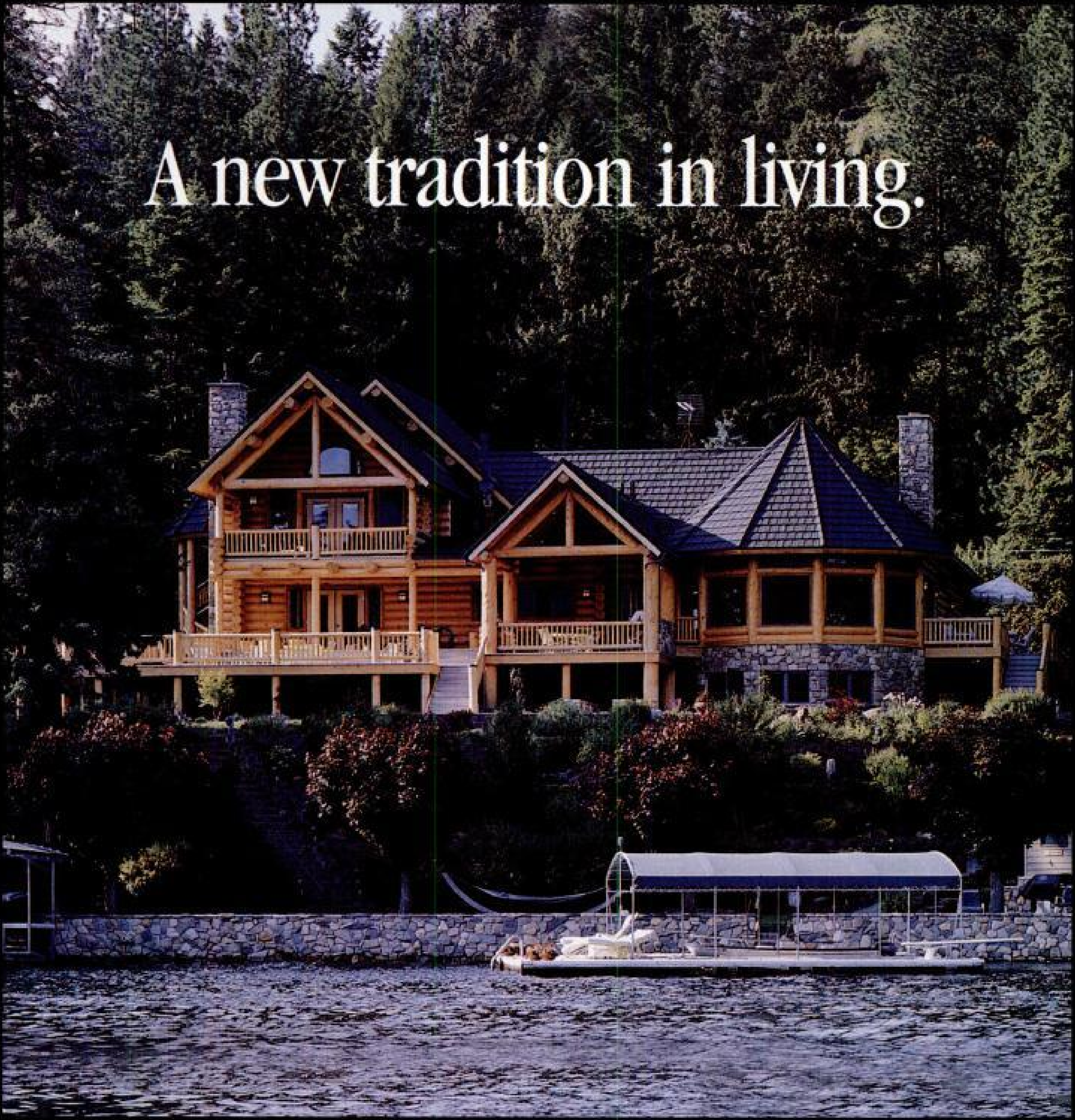

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www.forintek.ca

Forintek Canada Corporation offers a comprehensive brochure on protecting and finishing log buildings.

Visit www.forintek.ca, click on "Publications & Software" and look for fact sheets. The fact sheet explains how log selection, log storage and design, construction and finishing factors affect the life of a log structure.

Another good source on remedial wood treatment is the joint Canadian Wood Council/Forintek Canada wood durability website found at www.durable-wood.com. The site offers general information on protection and remedial treatment of wood as well as a FAQ section loaded with tips on product and treatment applications and identifying potential problem areas. The log home fact sheet mentioned above is also available on this site.

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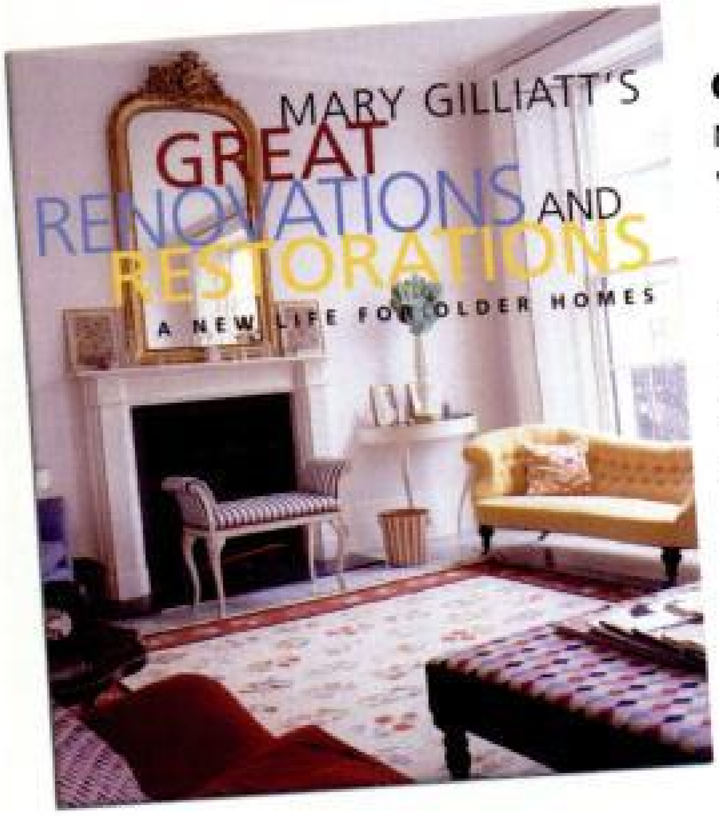

Great Renovations And Restorations

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Watson-Guptill Publications

If you're tired of how your old house looks or functions, don't sell it. Give it a makeover. Mary Gilliatt shows how in *Great Renovations And Restorations*, a practical guide to turning your home from drab to fab. Expert advice on restoring your home's structural features is provided, along with an exhaustive glossary of building and architectural terms. Gilliatt also details the decorative and architectural elements common in older homes.

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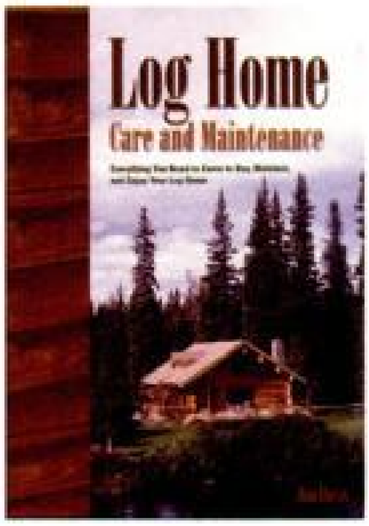

Log Home Care And Maintenance

Jim Davis • 224 pages
The Lyons Press

Taking care of a log home is a lot easier when you know your logs. A big part of Jim Davis' book is devoted to the materials log homes are made of and what building with wood is all about.

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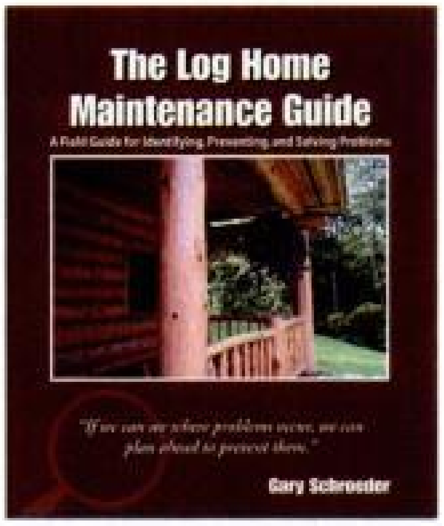
To contact The Lyons Press, call 800-962-0973 or visit www.lyonspress.com.



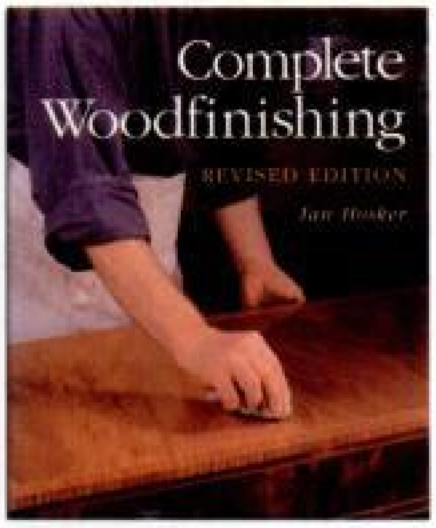
The Log Home Maintenance Guide

Gary Schroeder • 176 pages
The Countryman Press

Gary Schroeder mines his many years of experience as a log home builder and restoration contractor to show you how to protect your investment.

It's all covered here, from finishing and sealing a new log home to dealing with pests and damaging insects to repairing damaged caulk or chinking. Detailed instructions for addressing a number of problems are illustrated by full-color photographs.

To contact The Countryman Press, call 800-245-4151 or visit www.countrymanpress.com.



Complete Woodfinishing

Ian Hosker • 170 pages
Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

The importance of wood finishing may be lost on the general public, but not on Ian Hosker. The experienced woodfinishing teacher knows a bad stain or polishing job can ruin beautiful woodwork.

In his unique, down-to-earth style, Hosker shares the secrets of his craft and provides a complete guide to materials and processes involved in woodfinishing. Safety information is included, along with advice on finishing preparation.

To contact Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., call 800-805-5489 or visit www.sterlingpublishing.com.

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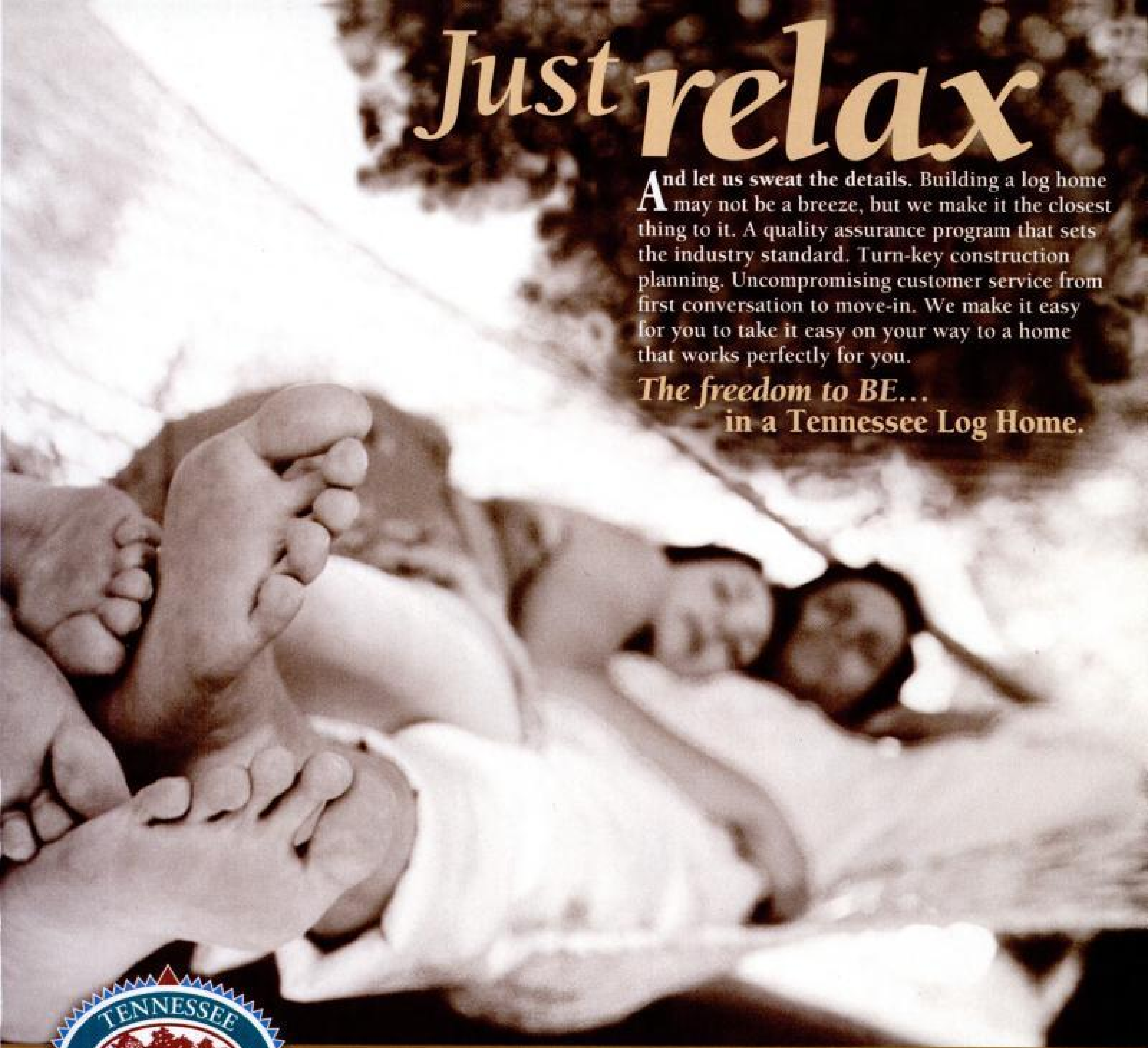

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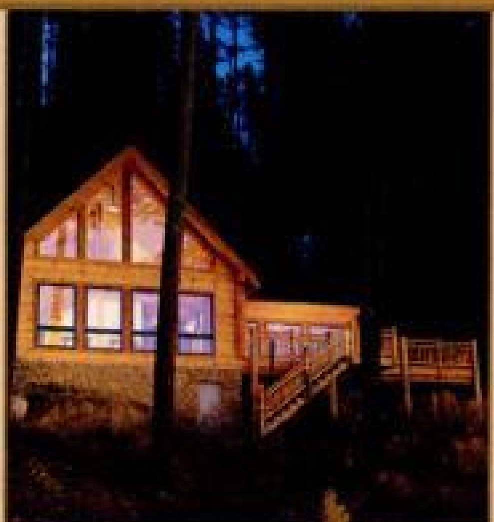

Nothing happens unless first a dream.

Carl Sandburg

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BY PETER LINDBLAD

An Inside Look At Log Home Restoration

Meet Log Restoration Expert Dave Tuxbury

On vacation in western Montana one year, Dave Tuxbury noticed that a number of log homes were being built. Right then and there, he knew his life was about to change.

"My week's vacation stretched into a life full of wood chips," he says.

That was about 20 years ago. The log home industry was in its infancy and Dave started learning everything he could about the art of building handcrafted log homes. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Michigan and founded the first handcrafted log yard east of the Mississipi with nationwide sales. In time, the company established log settling guidelines that are used today by companies worldwide.

Along the line, Tuxbury recognized there was a market for log restoration and replacement. His company, American Log Restoration, has repaired over 500 structures, including the original Harley Davidson Estate and Michigan's Log Castle.

LHDI: How often should homeowners inspect their logs and what should they look for? At what point does restoration become necessary?

Tuxbury: Every spring and fall. You were always told to stay out of the rain. Now I say, get a rainjacket and get out in the rain. It's a good idea to inspect the exterior of your home during a hard rain each spring and fall.

American Log Restoration duplicates logs that need to be replaced and then sets them into place by hand during a log restoration project. Logs are then stained according to the stain manufacturer's guidelines.

Check the rain gutters to make sure water is gathering in the gutters and draining properly. Look at the bottom of the downspouts and see if water is gushing out of them. If not, they are probably plugged. Valley gutters should be checked to make sure they are large enough to accommodate all the water runoff. Is there adequate ground drainage or do you need underground piping from the downspouts to control the water runoff? Look for any logs getting over saturated.

When inspecting the interior of the home, look for leaks around windows and doors, dormers, chimneys and between logs.

Once a year, take a hammer and gently tap on suspect logs to check for log rot. They will sound hollow compared to a solid sounding hit. Also, some of the logs with interior rot will have a loose exterior shell and have a tendency to bounce the hammer back. A solid log stops the hammer bounce.

LHDI: What causes logs to deteriorate?

Tuxbury: There are a number of things that cause logs to deteriorate:

- Logs too close to the ground
- Shrubs planted too close to the building, which causes poor air circulation
- No rain gutters or the gutters are too small to handle water
- Improper flashing or the absence of a cricket on the chimney area
- Improper flashing around dormers
- Flat surfaces on the topside of logs
- Vines growing on the walls
- Sprinkler system wetting the house, especially when wind conditions are right
- Decks built up against the logs
- Short roof overhangs
- Not having proper sealant
- Chinking failures
- Insect damage
- Logs not borate treated
- Roof beams and log ends protruding past roof overhangs
- Door and window trimming not properly installed
- Soil grading sheds water towards the house
- Improper venting in the crawl space
- Lack of maintenance

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Before and after pictures show what a log restoration project can accomplish. If you notice your home has rotted logs, replace them as soon as possible to avoid further damage.

LHDI: If a restoration project is necessary, what actions should be taken to preserve a log home?

Tuxbury: All rotted logs should be replaced as soon as possible. If you catch the rot at this stage, chances are you can save the interior half. All logs should be replaced full length when possible.

Check all doors and windows to see they are operating properly. If you have difficulty opening and closing them, determine what the problem is. Is it rotting logs? Are there problems with the jambs or bucks? Or are they related to log shrinking or settling?

Epoxies can be used when it is impossible to replace logs. Usually this occurs on purlins, tie logs or rafters.

If you notice that log finishes are not repelling rain, absorption is taking place. Perhaps a maintenance coat should be applied.

Lastly, you should remove or grind down any flat surfaces on tops of all logs and correct any chinking failures or gaps.

LHDI: Take us through a typical log home restoration project.

Tuxbury: There are so many ways to do it. Different manufacturers have their own way, and there are a lot of do-it-yourselfers. I'm going to refer to a system that is very common throughout the United States.

My remedy for many homes is to:

- Duplicate necessary logs for replacement. I do not suggest using an interior groove method. Some of the exteriors of these logs are machine turned, some hand-peeled and some skip-peeled. I hand set each log into place and secure it. To begin the process of log replacement, the entire length of the rotted logs must be investigated to see if they support other structural members and how their load can be taken up by bracing during the jacking and removal process.
- Remove the existing finish on the solid logs, trim, eaves and fascia by corncob blasting and hand sanding all log surfaces using grinders, sanding discs or wood chisels.
- Remove existing caulk if present, and apply new caulk on all horizontal and vertical joints as well as all log ends.
- Apply borate wood preservative for mold, insect and rot control.
- Apply a stain and topcoat according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Stain the trim and fascia with a slightly darker color, as they usually get water spots and discolor faster. A darker color will last much longer.

I have yet to come across a log home that is beyond repair. From time to time I have to come up with creative solutions to problems and find a way of replicating the most intricate log building to recover its structural integrity and revive its natural beauty.

LHDI: What services does American Log Restoration provide?

Tuxbury: In our initial visit, we collect some background information and conduct an inspection of log walls. We'll compile a report that includes:

The history of the home. We ask questions like: Is this a registered historical building? How old is the home? What's the ownership history? What is the owner's future intent — keep or sell?

Log condition. We look for green moss or mold growing on logs and corners. Then we look for dicolored areas caused by repeated moisture.

We gently tap each log with a hammer paying particular attention to the upward-facing surfaces in addition to areas below windows and doors and around downspouts. We also closely inspect the first few logs above decks, porches and corners. We look for upward facing log cracks where water could run into the interior and cause damage and identify any gaps

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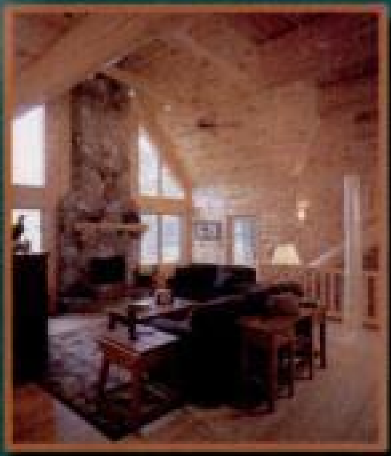

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that may allow air and water infiltration around corners, doors and windows, and roof lines. We look for sagging logs which could be caused from rotting or overload situations. We check to see if doors are operating correctly. We also look for flat surfaces on the tops of logs which could cause water to puddle up.

Checking the exterior finish. We look for fading — primarily on the south and west walls — and cracking, peeling or blistering. We look to see if there is mold or mildew underneath the finish, or if there is a different color shade on top of the log as opposed to underneath it. And we look to see if moisture runs off the surface of the logs.

Checking the chinking and caulking. First we find out what product is currently on the logs. Then we check the color and look for cracks, tears and lack of adhesion, or faded or hardened caulk.

Inspecting the grounds. First we check for logs touching the ground. Then we look to see if shrubs or trees are too close to the home and check for firewood or furniture that is placed too close to the home. Are there water sprinklers reaching the logs, especially when wind conditions are right? That's something we watch for, and we check for sawdust or holes on or around the logs from insects.

Looking at the roof, gutters and downspouts. We check for proper overhangs and look at dormer and chimney flashing.

SOURCE:

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Circle Reader Response #99

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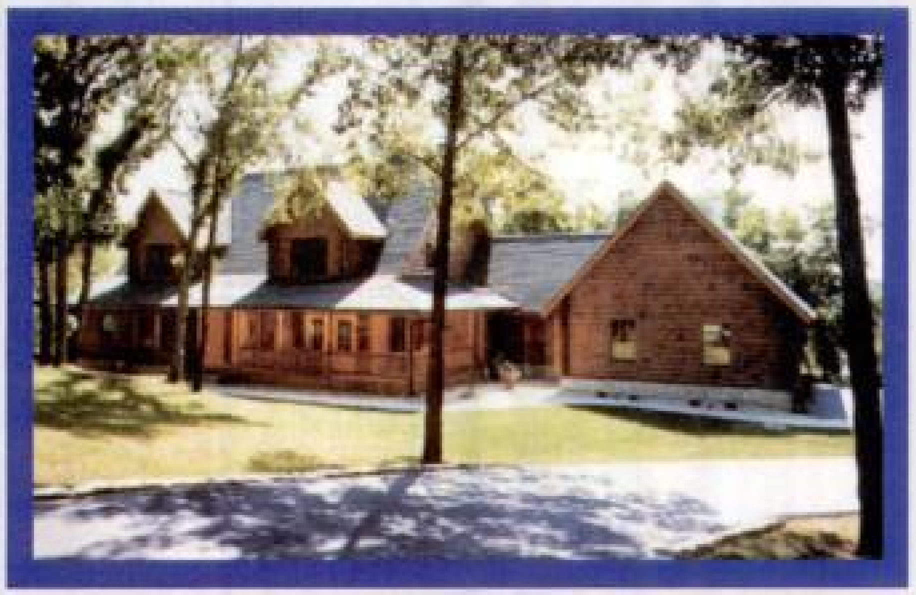

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Or you can ask to talk with Bob, Garrett, or Dennis about any questions you have about log homes, or the price of tea in China. We'd just love to talk with you. Here's the number—**800.876.8100**. If you're shy, just nose around our website. We'll be here. And we'll be here for you every step of the way.

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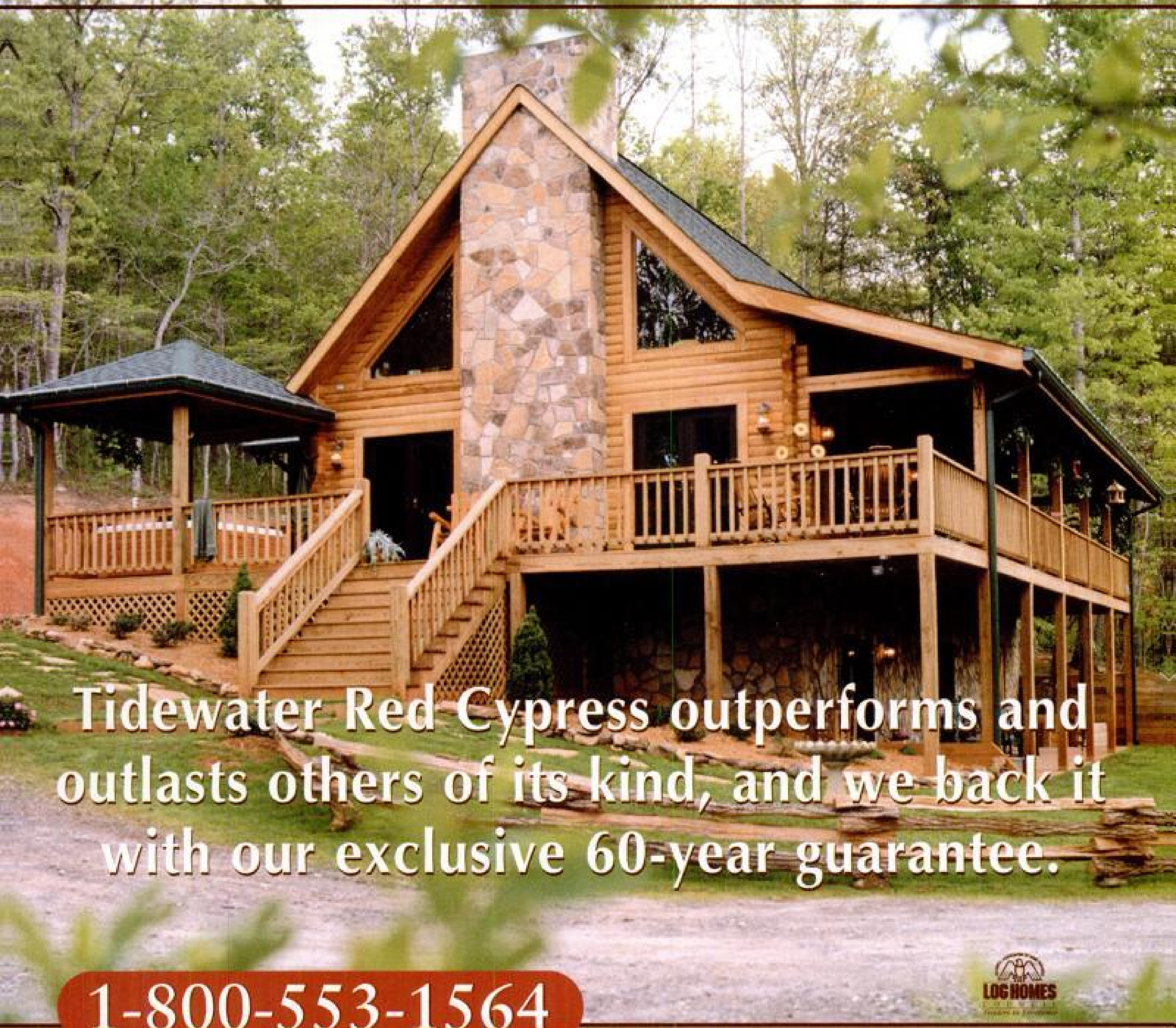

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Circle Reader Response #309

BY BRYAN TRANDEM

Installing Weathertight Windows & Doors

An expert guide to installing windows & doors in your log home

Nothing affects the efficiency of your log home like proper door and window installation. Even with the highest rated doors and windows, without proper installation you'll have higher heating and cooling costs, not to mention a less comfortable log home. Installing windows and doors in a log home is relatively simple, but the job is different in a home constructed with full logs than one finished with half log siding.

Half-Log Wall Openings

In homes finished with half-log siding, window and door openings require removal of one or more vertical wall studs. To compensate for the missing support member, a sturdy header and jack studs are installed to carry the load. The size of the header is dictated by the width of the opening. Generally the header is constructed from a pair of 2x boards sandwiched around a layer of ½" plywood. The header is positioned on-edge with the ends resting on jack studs, which are attached to full king studs that run from sole plate to top plate in the wall system (see illustration on page 32). The size of the header can be determined by the chart below.

At the bottom of window openings, a rough sill spans the width of the opening, supported by cripple studs. The rough sill and cripple studs support only the weight of the window unit, so they need not be as sturdily constructed as the header.

The rough opening size is generally 1" wider and ½" taller than the window unit itself to allow the window or door to be squared up plumb and level. Most window and door manufacturers offer units in stock sizes so the openings are usually framed with these dimensions in mind. You can order units in custom sizes, though they generally cost more.

For both small windows and large expanses of glass, correct installation is the best way to ensure you'll get premium performance and maximum efficiency from your log home's windows.

Photo Courtesy Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork Co.

Full-Log Wall Openings

In a full-log home, window and door framing is in some ways easier because the log walls themselves carry the full weight of the walls and roof. There are no wall studs or headers to concern yourself with. Window and door openings are simply chain sawed into walls, and the window and door units set within these openings. Even with relatively large windows or patio doors, the full logs that transverse the wall above the rough openings are sufficiently strong to carry all the weight above, with no need for additional headers or support.

There is one important added consideration, though, with full-log construction. Because logs shrink and shift (especially in the first few years), you will run into problems if the window and door units are nailed tightly to the ends of the logs on either side of the rough opening. As logs shrink and settle, door and window units can bow and pinch. The result: doors and windows that refuse to open and close smoothly. In more severe cases, entire window units have been known to shatter as the frames attempt to move

Recommended Header Sizes

Width of Rough Opening	Recommended Header
Up to 3'	2x4s sandwiched around ½" plywood
3' to 5'	2x6s sandwiched around ½" plywood
5' to 7'	2x8s sandwiched around ½" plywood
7' to 8'	2x10s sandwiched around ½" plywood

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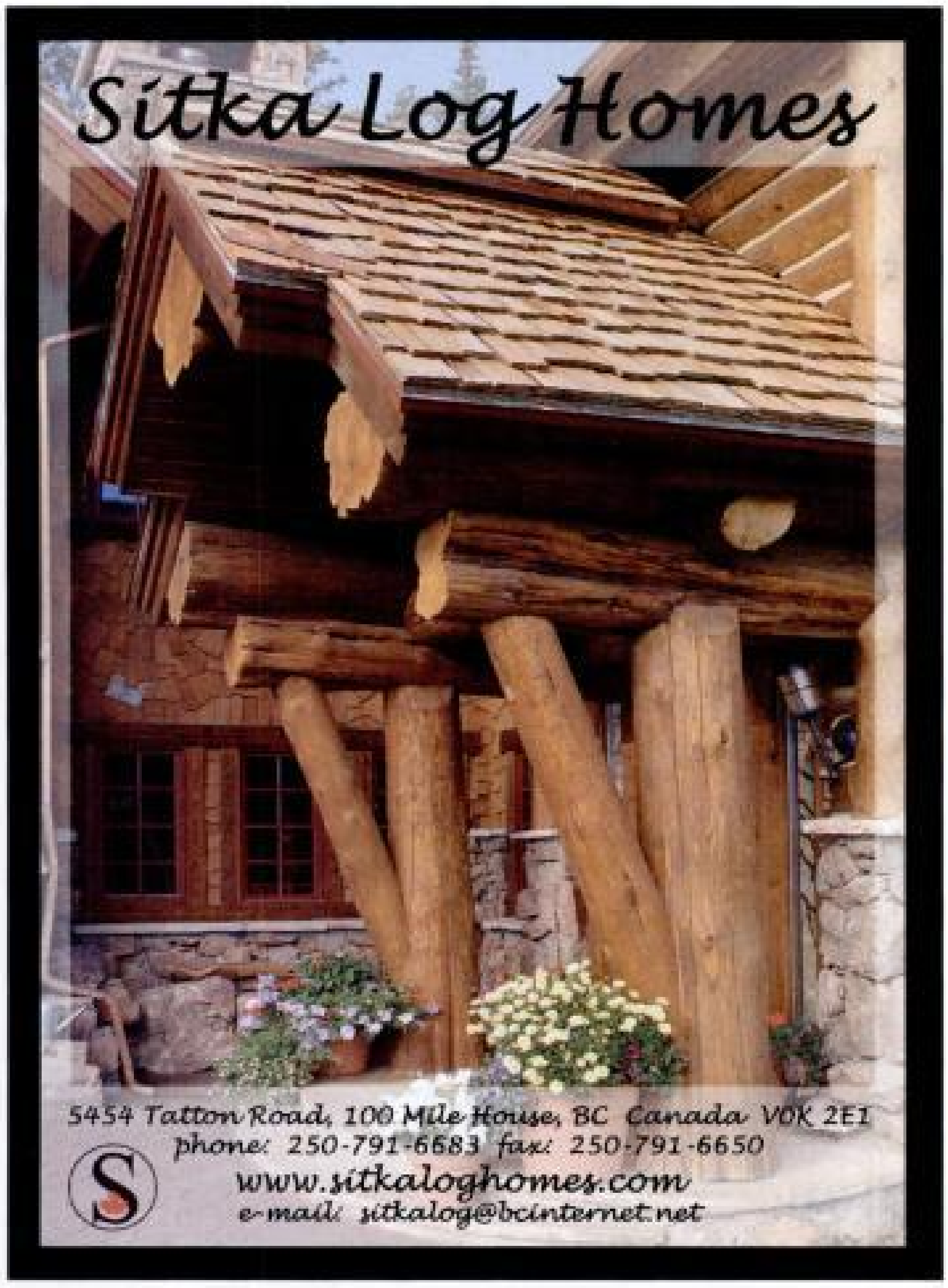

∇ Circle Reader Response #394

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along with the shrinking walls.

For this reason, door and window units in full-log homes should always be mounted in independent framing members, called bucks, which are attached to the logs. Although the windows and door units are anchored firmly to the bucks, the bucks themselves are allowed to float up and down within the rough openings.

Buck Systems

There are two buck systems commonly used in full-log construction.

One has bucks consisting of 2x6 or 2x8 lumber in which vertical slots have been milled. The bucks are nailed to the ends of the logs through these slots, which allow the logs to move independently of the bucks.

In the other system, the bucks are built with perpendicular "keys" — usually 2x4s set on edge. The keys fit into slots cut into the ends of the logs. The slots are often cut deep enough to allow a convenient place to route cable for electrical circuits.

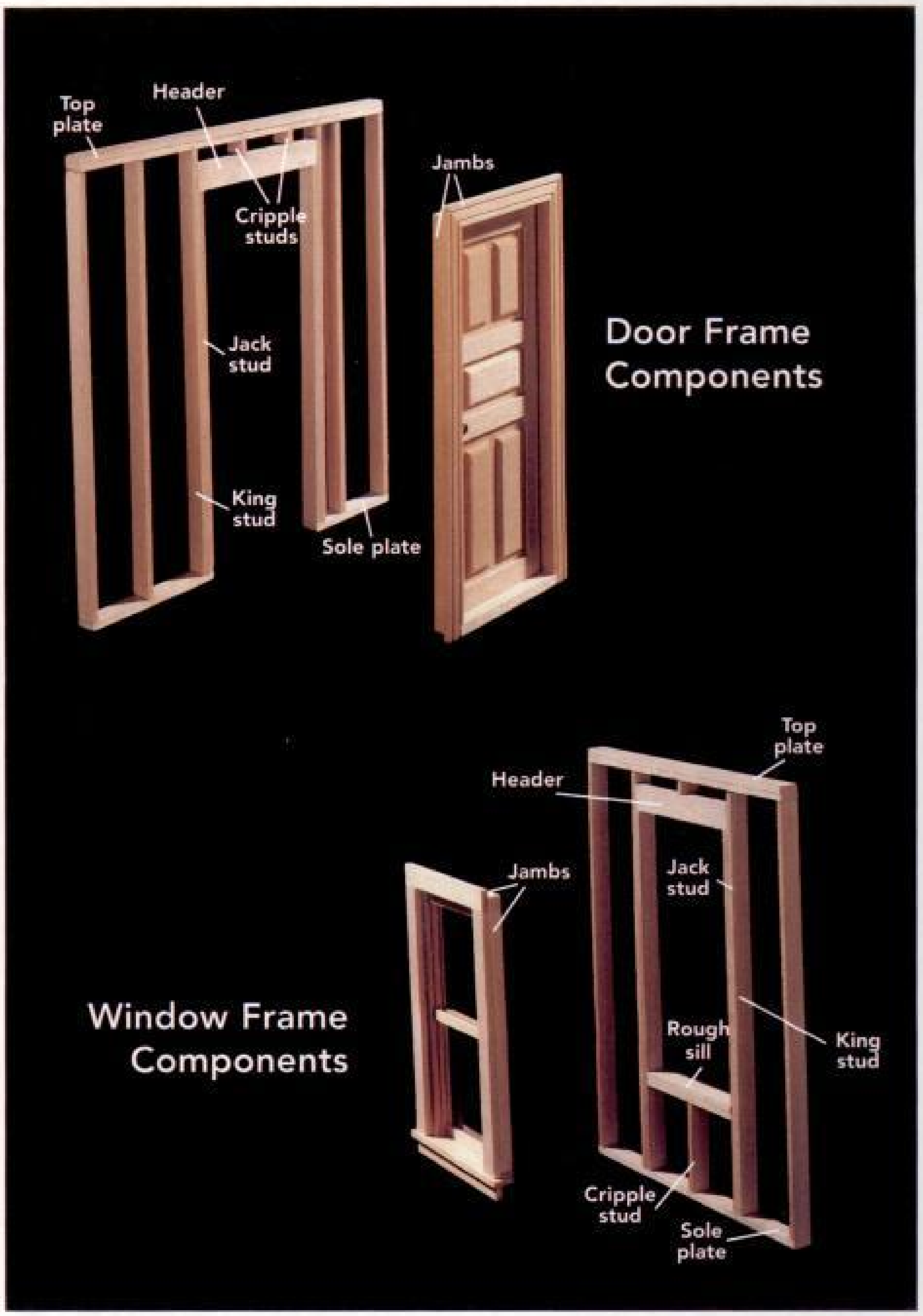
With either system, it's common for the bucks to be cut slightly shorter than the rough opening, which again allows for the walls to move over time without wreaking havoc on window and door units.

Framing & Installation

First, the rough openings for windows and doors are marked onto the logs, allowing an extra 4" or so on each side (1½" for each buck, plus wiggle room for squaring up the unit). Vertically, an extra ½" is allowed. The manufacturer's specifications are used to make the rough opening sizes. The openings are cut with a chain saw, with care taken to keep the cuts perfectly vertical and horizontal. For door openings, however, it's typical to angle the bottom sill at a 15 degree angle to ensure water sheds properly.

Next, the bucks are installed over a thin layer of insulation or strips of weatherstripping, positioned so the front edges of the bucks are aligned with the outside edges of the log wall. Dave Carter, president of Appalachian Log Homes, says their builders achieve best results by filling the gaps between the bucks and the logs with weather seal tape.

Flat bucks are nailed to the ends of the logs through the center of the nail slots.



Illustrations from the book "The Complete Guide To Windows & Doors" /Courtesy Creative Publishing International

Keyed bucks are inserted into the log slots and merely tacked into place until the window and door units are set. A heavy bead of caulk is run along the gap between the bucks and the logs, and along the subfloor, for a door unit.

Placing Windows & Doors

Next, the window or door units are set in place according to the manufacturer's directions, with the outer moldings flushed up against the front edge of the bucks. (A thick bead of caulk is applied to the back face of the moldings before the unit is set into place). It may be necessary to notch the front corners of the logs to enable the window and door molding to fit flush against the bucks. Once the window or door is positioned, wood shims are used to square up the unit within the rough opening and hold it in place for nailing. The units are secured to the bucks with casing nails driven through the inside of the window frame.

Finish Work

Before trimming the inside of the window or door with case moldings, gaps

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between the frames and the bucks are filled with loosely packed fiberglass insulation. Most window and door units come with precut moldings that can be painted or stained as desired and nailed in place to finish the installation. On many units with exterior cladding, the interior frames are bare wood, which can be painted or stained.

Investing money into good windows, and time into ensuring they are properly installed, will create a home where windows and doors operate flawlessly and require virtually no maintenance for decades.

Bryan Trandem has written and edited several best-selling books on home improvement, remodeling and landscaping. He currently serves as executive editor of Creative Publishing International, a leading DIY publisher.

RESOURCES:

Anderson Windows & Doors
Anderson Corporation
Bayport, MN
Phone: 651-264-5150
www.andersonwindows.com

Appalachian Log Structures
Ripley, WV
Phone: 800-458-9990
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Centennial Log Homes
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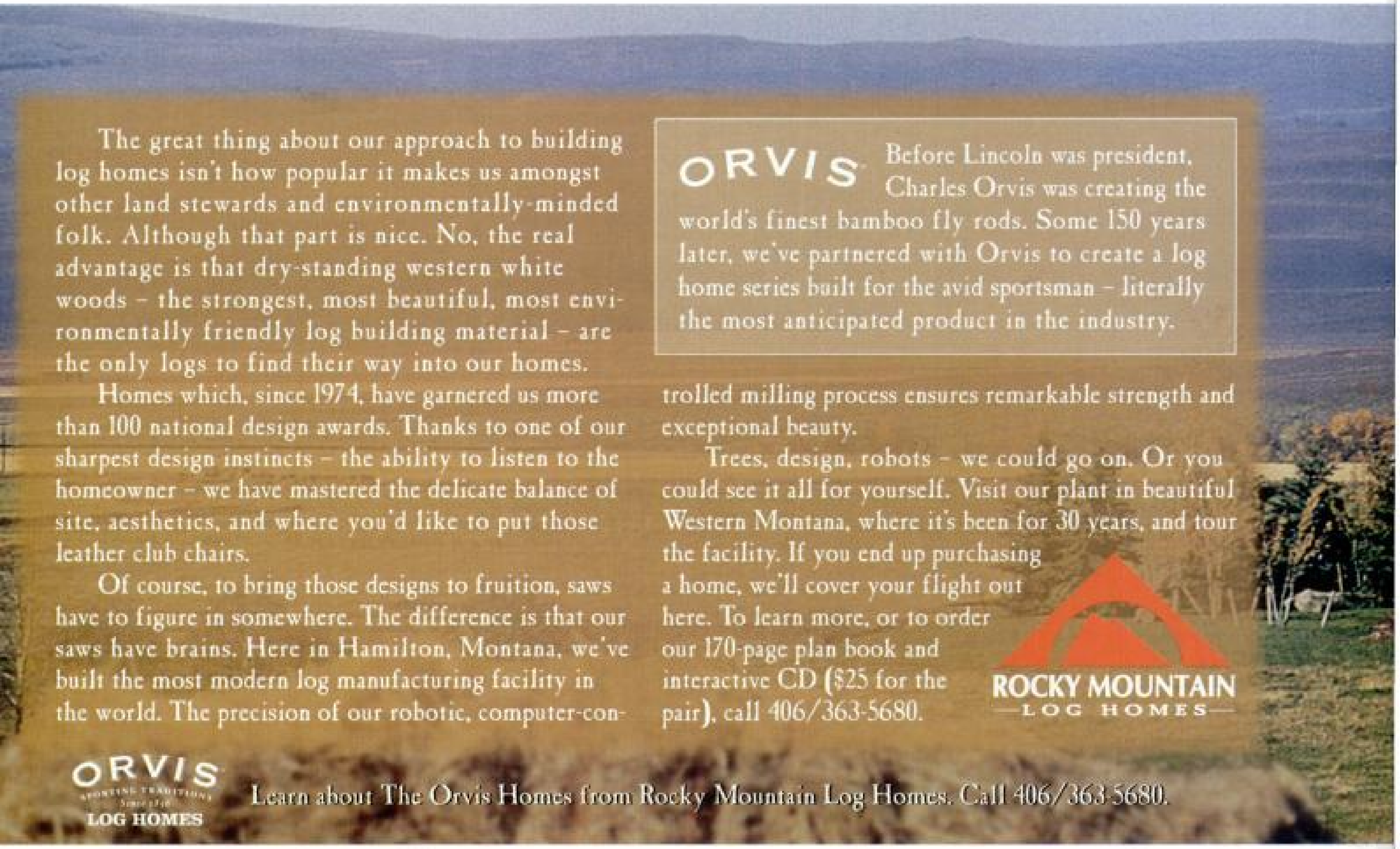

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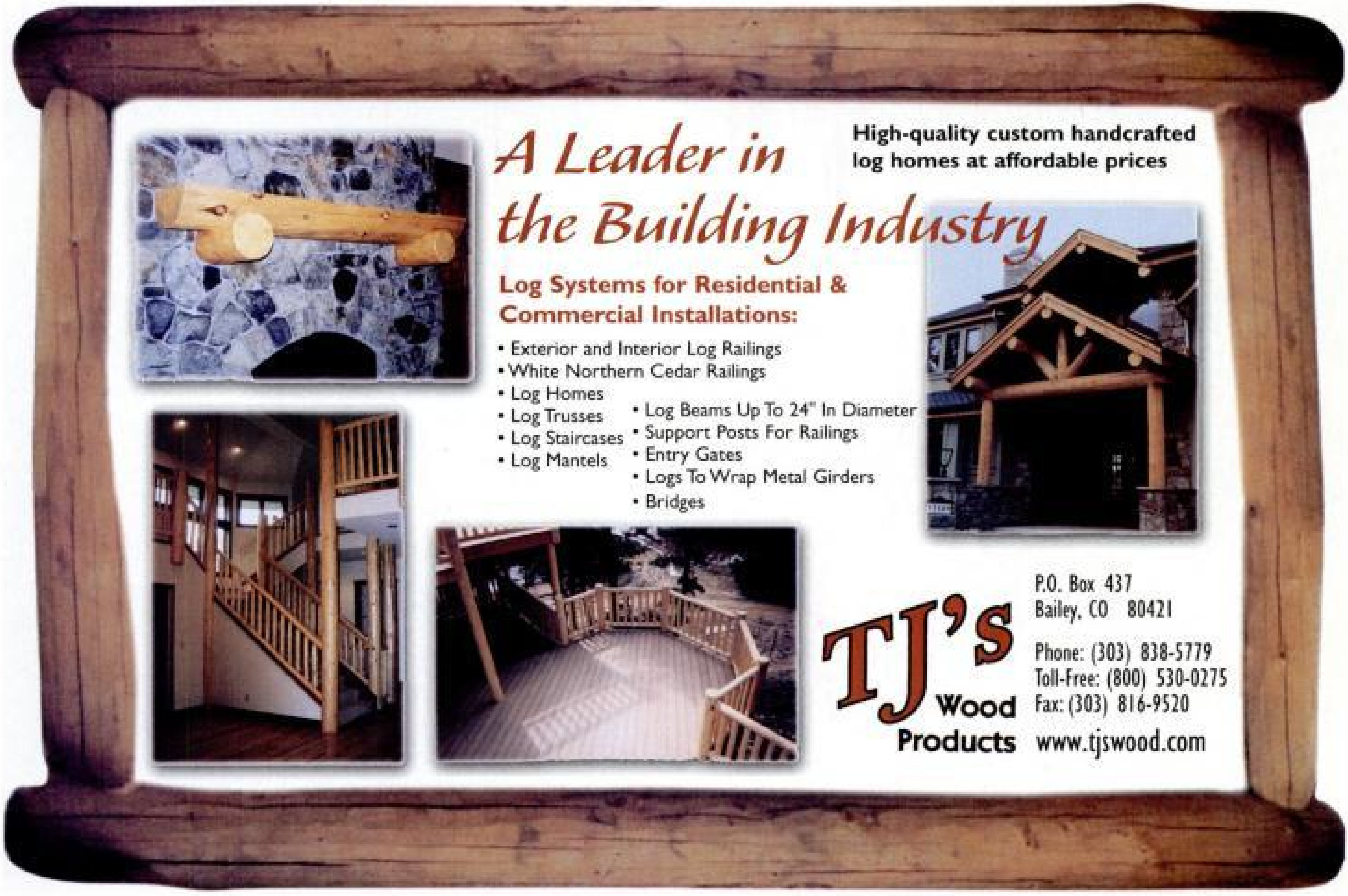

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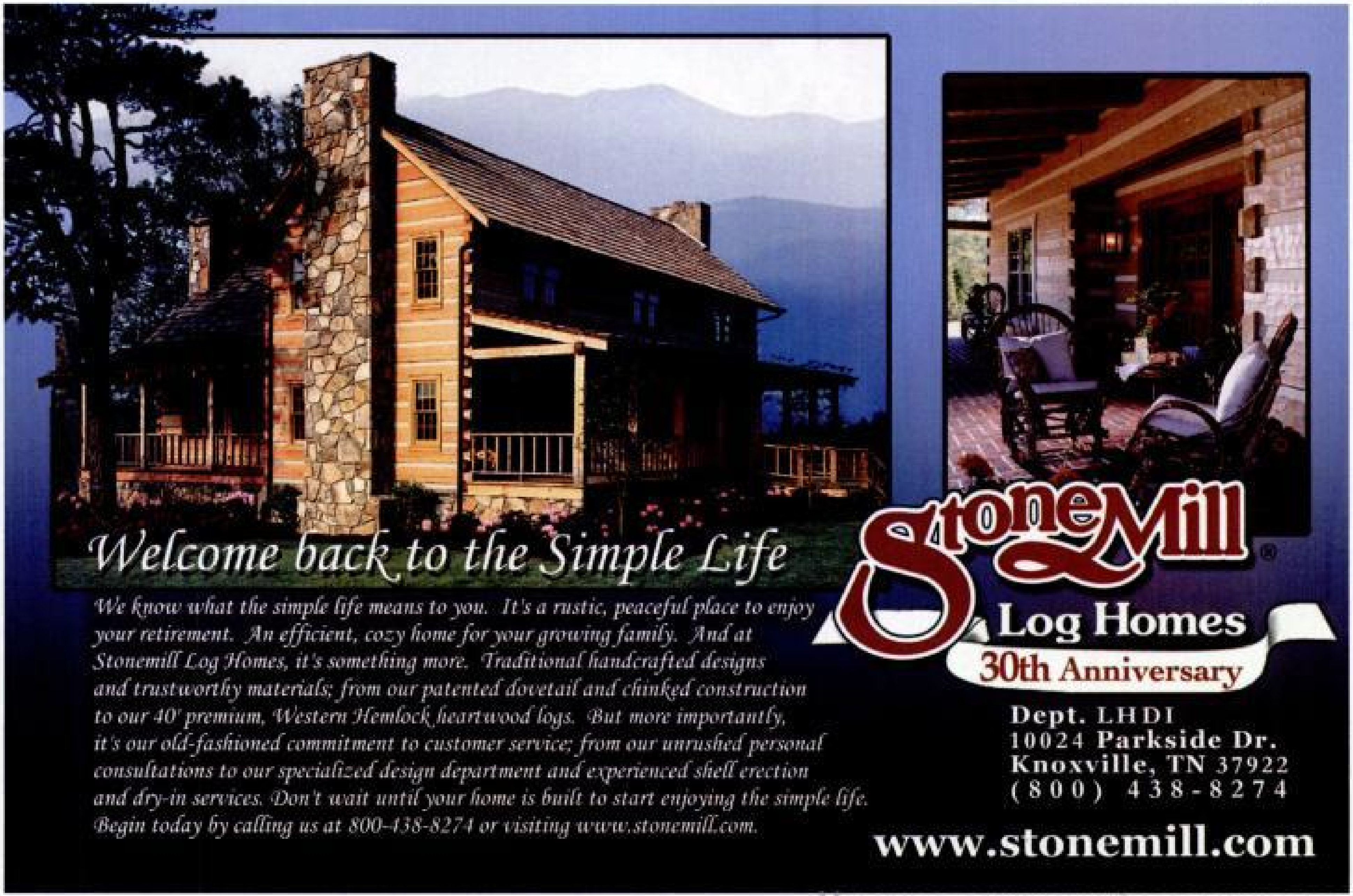

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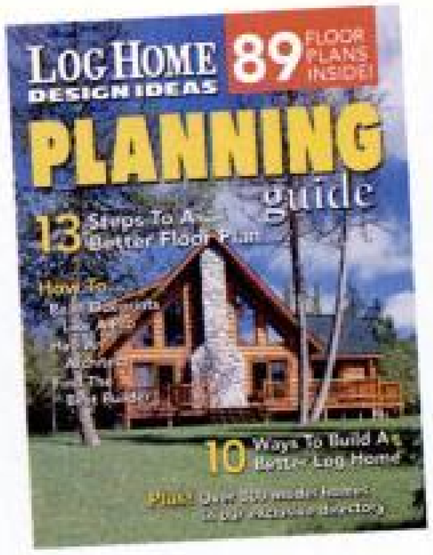

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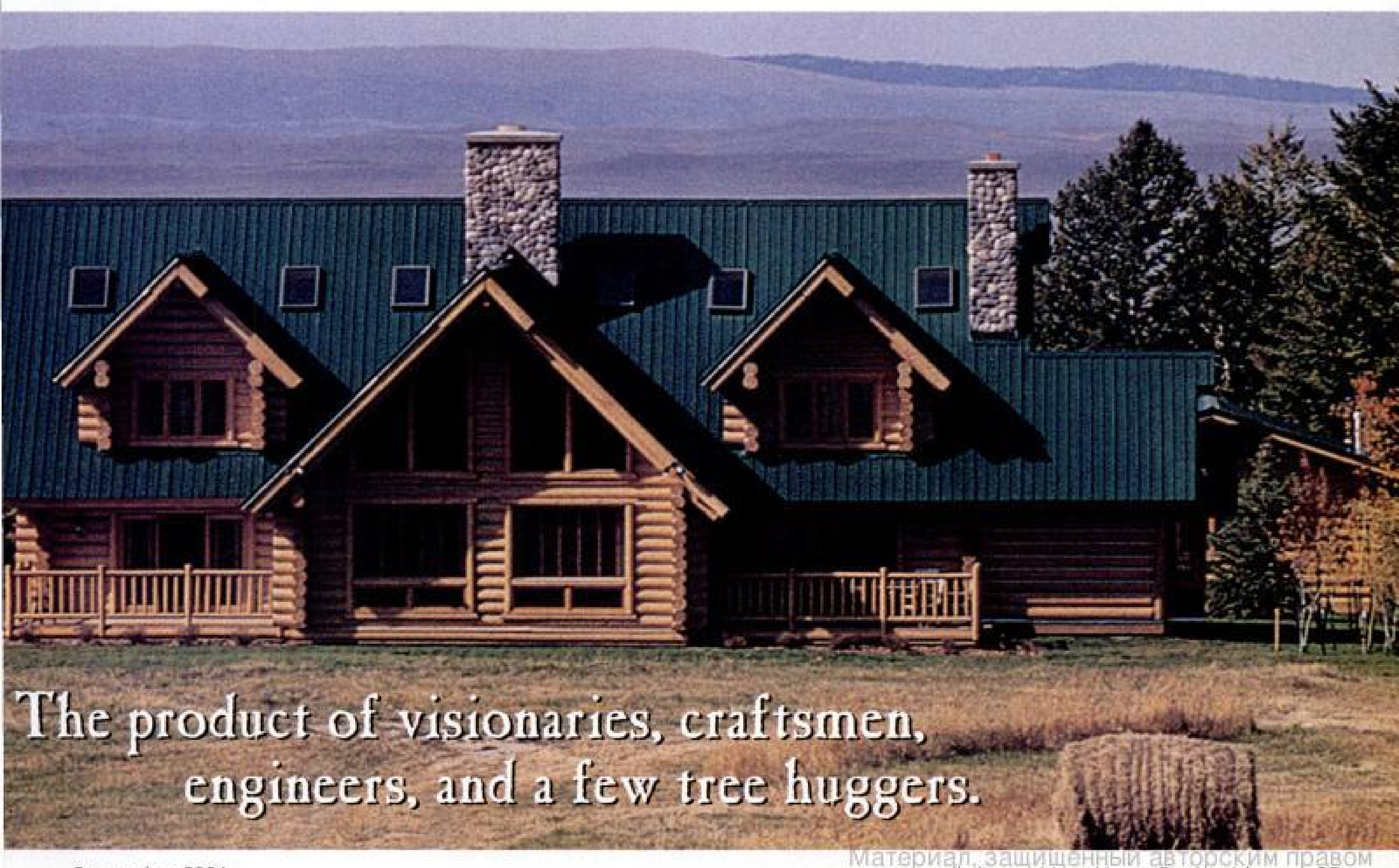

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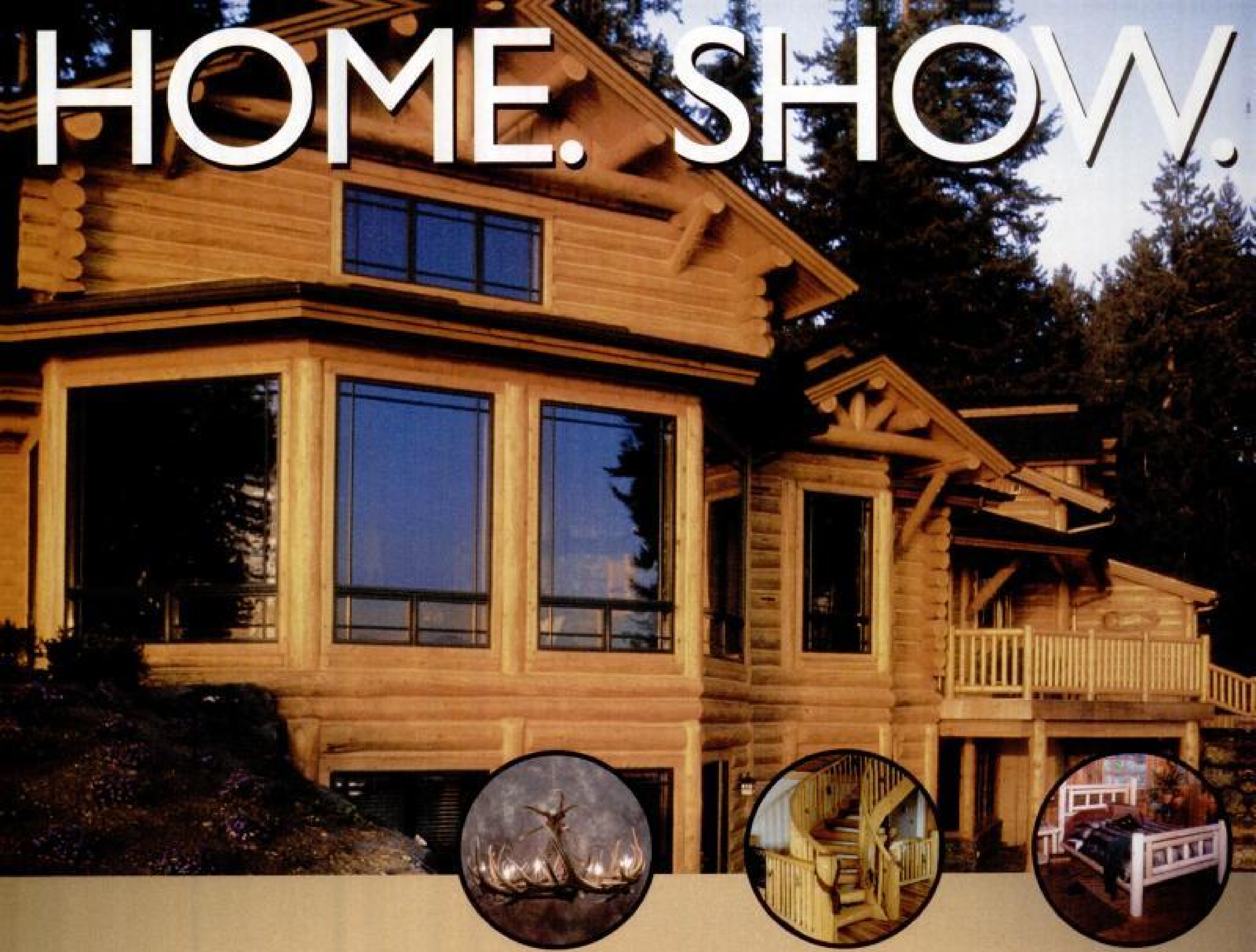

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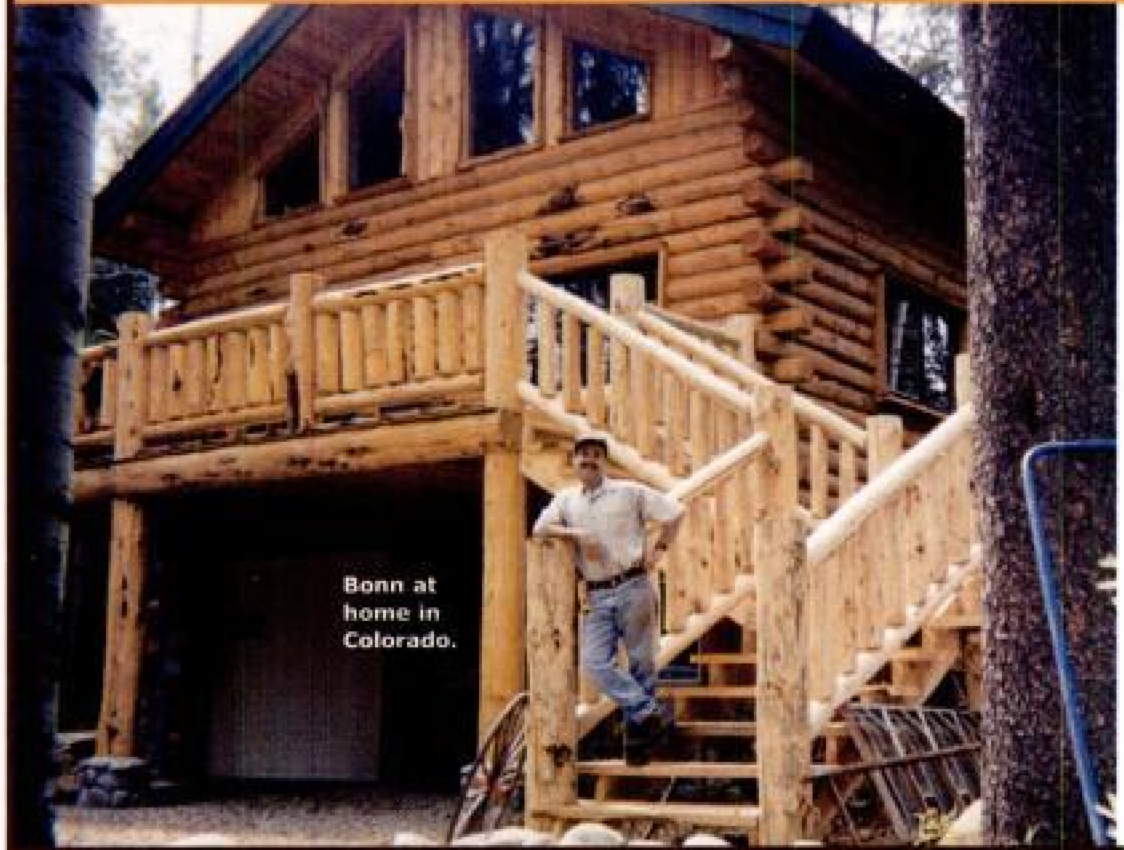

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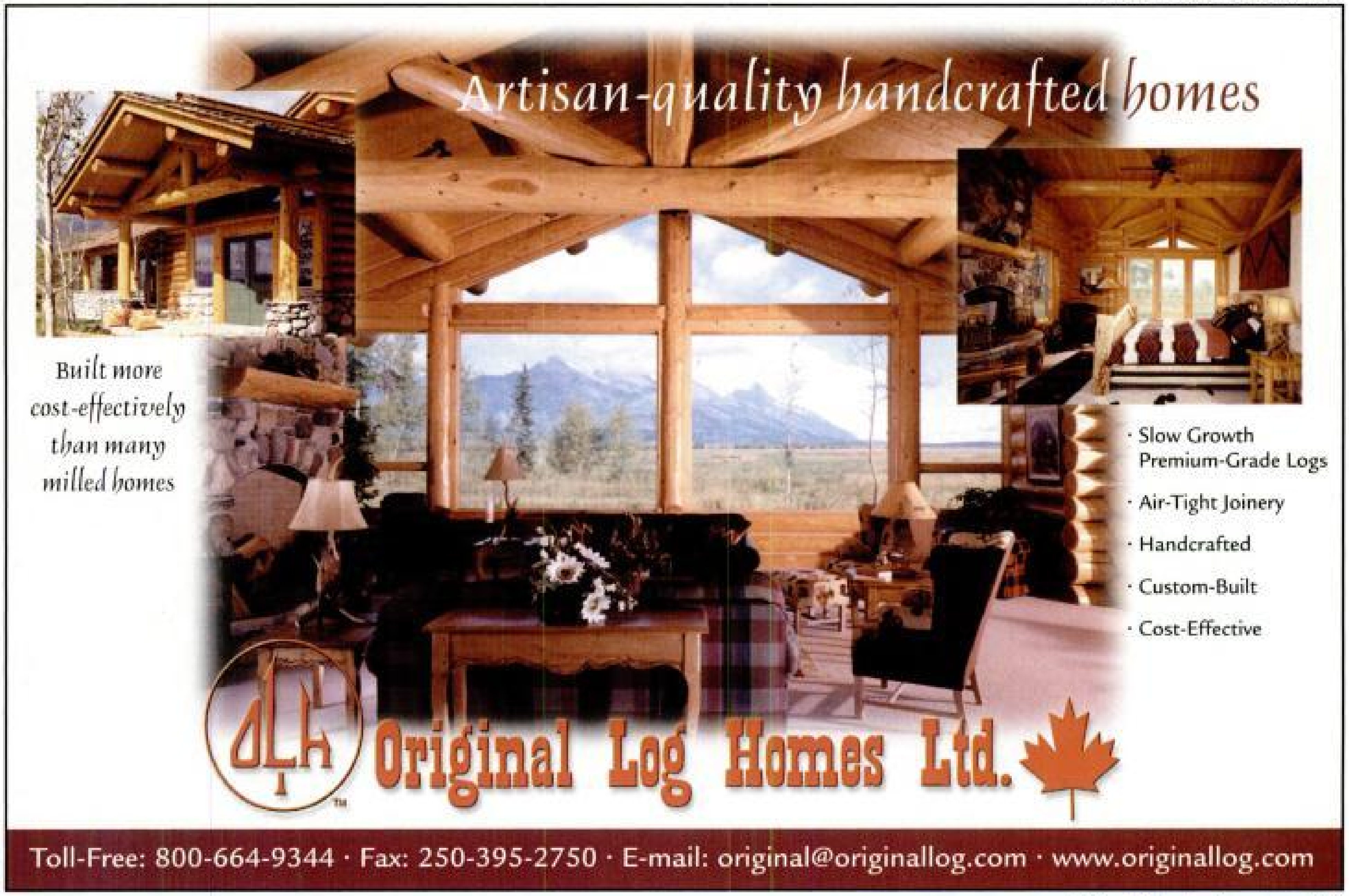

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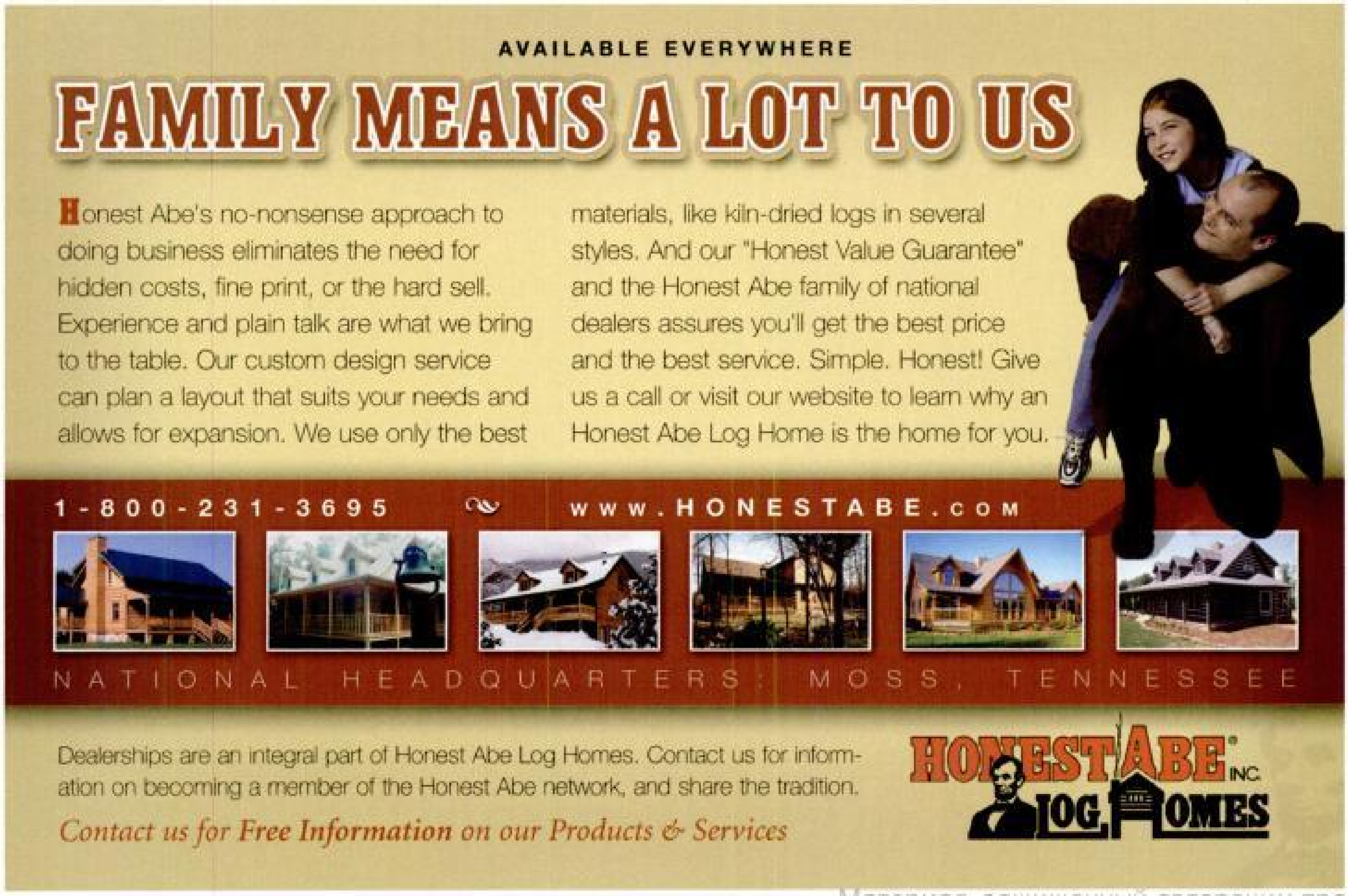

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have extensive carpenter bee damage, find large checks or splits, or can't locate the source of water damage.

"Checks in a full log are more critical because your wall is the log," Lindstrom notes. "If it deteriorates, your wall deteriorates. Once decay starts, it's difficult to stop. We're talking high-end maintenance dollars."

Estimated cost: $20 to $30 for one gallon of epoxy wood filler; about $70 for carpenter bee repair kit.

Drainage

Pay close attention to areas near downspouts or with poor drainage.

"Remember, sun and water are nature's way of returning everything to dirt," Dunstan says.

Repair or replace gutters at the first sign of trouble, and clean areas that appear dirty or mildewed. Mildew does more damage than just leaving dark patches on your wood. The spores can quickly lead to rot. If you live in an area with high humidity or minimal sunlight exposure, Parsons says consider investing in a mildewcide you can add to stain. Trim back or move plants 18 inches from the logs so wood can breathe and keep the dirt line 12 inches below your foundation. Dirt film can trap moisture, so it's a good idea to wash dirty areas as needed with a gentle spray and mild cleanser.

Estimated cost: $100 for five gallons of oxygenated bleach wood cleanser; $100 for one gallon of nonphosphate wood cleanser.

Where to get help

"Maintaining a log house is like any other relationship," Dunstan says. "It takes a lot of care and attention. You won't know how to fix problems if you don't get out there and look for them."

The Internet, your log home manufacturer, and preservative and wood restoration companies all can provide invaluable information and tips.

See page 42 for Resources.

Colleen Ryckert Cook is a freelance writer and editor in Lenexa, Kansas.

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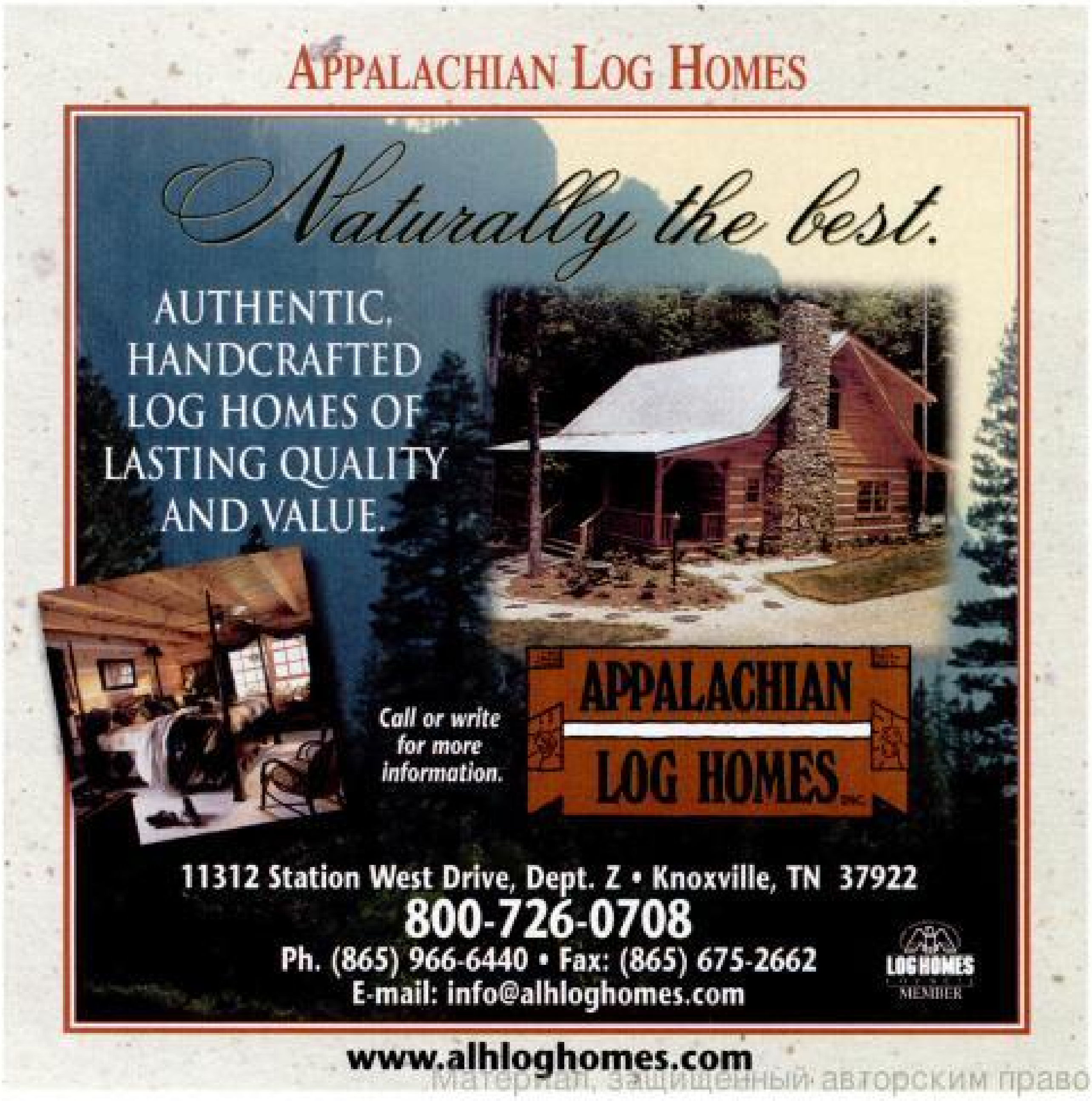

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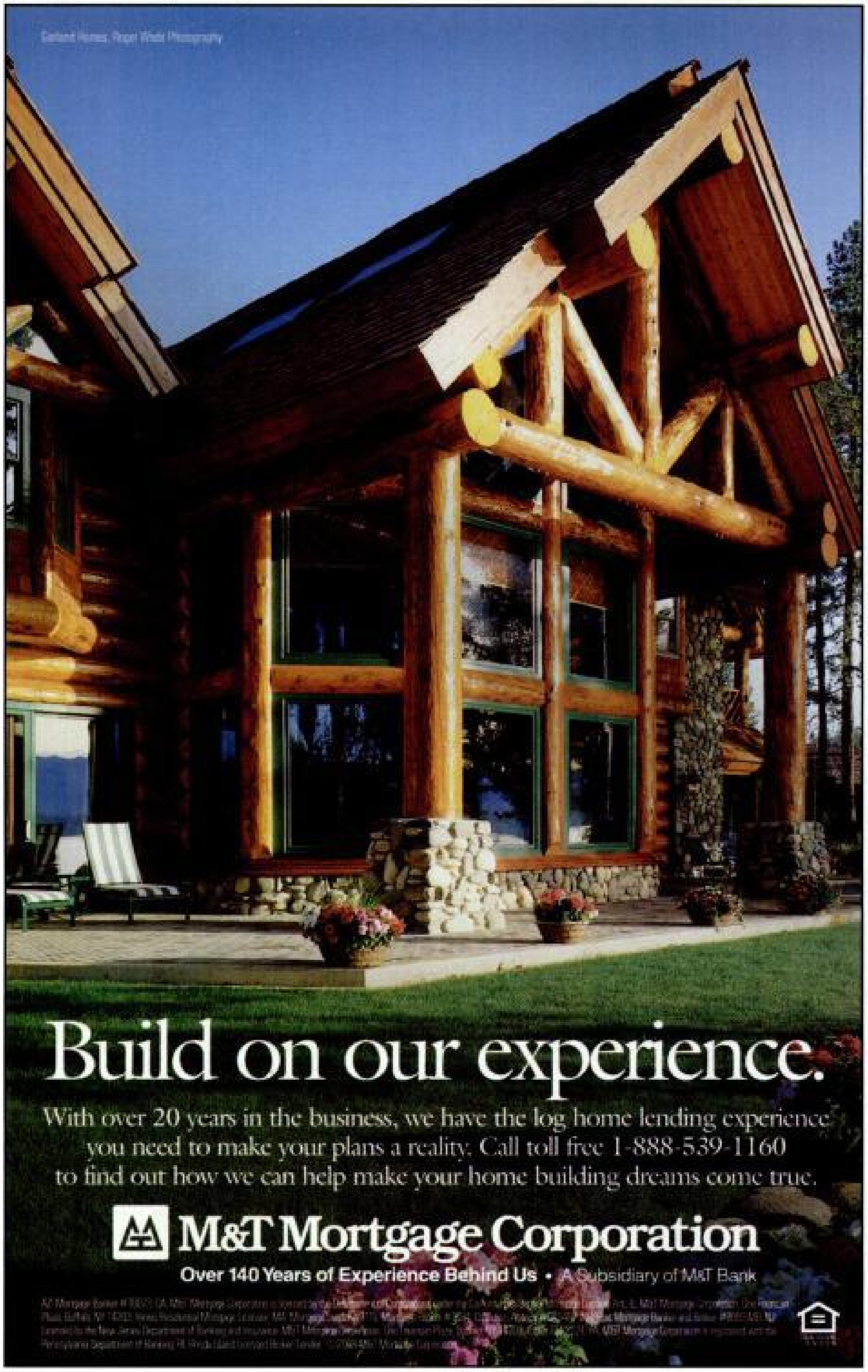

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The Program

8:30 Registration/visit exhibits

9:30 Welcome and introductions
Six steps to success

9:45 Step 1: Budget decisions
Step 2: Design decisions
Step 3: Deciding on a log home company

11:15 Step 4: Deciding on a lender
Step 5: Deciding on a builder

12:30 Lunch (on your own)/visit exhibits

2:00 Step 6: Build My Log Home construction slide show

3:00 Visit exhibits

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Photo Courtesy Perma-Chink Systems, Inc.

Wood Care FAQs

You've got questions about wood care; our experts have the answers and what they have to say can help you maintain the logs that make your home beautiful

BY PETER LINDBLAD

Take care of your logs and they'll take care of you. That's a maxim log home owners live by. But it's hard to give them the best care possible if you don't know how.

We asked log home industry professionals to shed some light on what it takes to maintain your logs. Among those polled were Dalibor Houdek of Forintek Canada Corp., Canadian Wood Council education coordinator Hugo Lemieux, Douglas Parsons of Appalachian Log Structures and Terri Groves of Log Home Repair and Restoration Services.

LHDI: Sun and moisture cause the most damage to logs. What are the best ways to protect your logs from the damage they can cause?

Lemiuex: By far, design is the best way to ensure logs are protected from rain and sun. Long overhangs, particularly at gable ends where the height of the end wall can be substantial, as well as porch roofs have

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ishing. If the logs no longer bead water, or there are signs of surface discoloration of pigment fading, it is time to refinish.

LHDI: What are some things to remember when choosing finishes for your logs?

Groves: Choose finishes that are specific to your area's conditions. Factors such as humidity and exposure to the sun will have some bearing on the type of finish you will need.

Different finishes also provide different appearances in color, depth, sheen, etc. You can choose a surface finish or a deep penetrating finish that after multiple coats creates a higher gloss. Choose a finish that will protect your logs and give you the desired result. If you are a do-it-yourselfer you may choose a user-friendly finish instead of a more complicated multiple coat system that may need a professional applicator.

Lemieux: Finishes complement and are not a replacement for good design, construction and maintenance.

High-quality water repellent might contain preservatives to protect the finish against mold and its application will provide surface protection for the wood. A semi-transparent penetrating stain, on the other hand, will provide additional UV protection as well as coloration to the log.

Another consideration is ease of maintenance — namely reapplication of the finish. Generally, film-forming finishes are difficult to reapply because the wood needs to be stripped of the old finish before the new finish coat can be applied. On the other hand, penetrating finishes are easier to re-apply and a good cleaning is all that is usually required before reapplication. Penetrating finishes also allow wood to dry faster than film formers.

The level of UV protection the finish provides to the wood is very important. Semi-transparent penetrating finishes can provide UV protection, but clear film formers provide almost no UV protection and will degrade quickly outdoors creating a significant maintenance problem.

LHDI: What are the best ways to fight mold, mildew and insects?

Groves: You can fight mold, mildew and

Choose finishes that are specific to your area's conditions. Factors such as humidity and exposure to the sun will have some bearing on the type of finish you will need.

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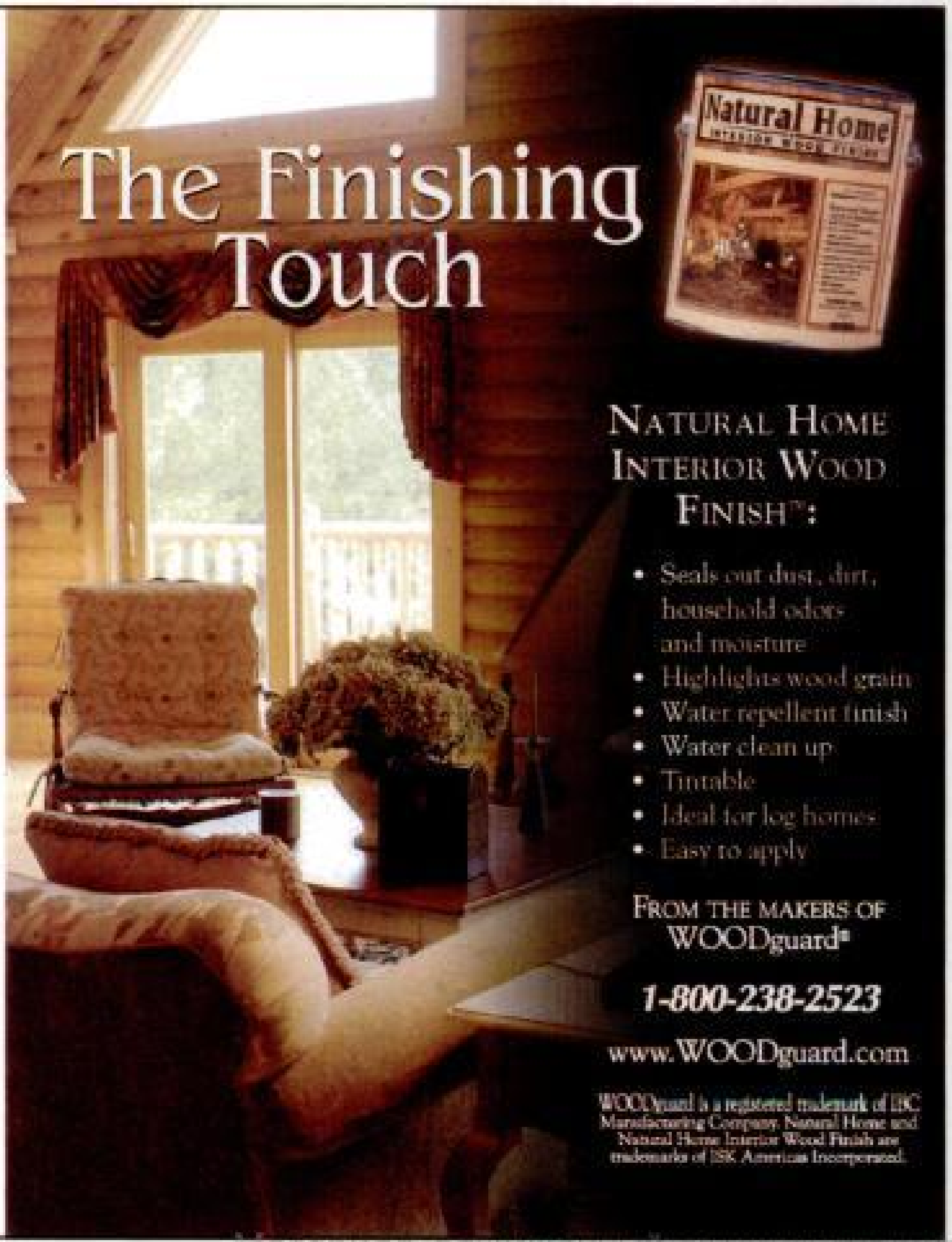

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insects by keeping your home as clean and dry as possible. Keep a clear "zone" between your shrubs and plants and your log home. Be sure to also remove other items from your log walls such as stacked firewood, garbage bins, propane gas tanks, etc. Mildewcides and insecticides are also available as additives to your finish. An application of borates to your home is very important and effective in slowing down the process of mold and mildew growth.

Lemieux: Mold is unsightly. It grows on the wood surface but does not harm the wood and it is often relatively easy to remove from logs. There are also other types of staining fungi that can grow on freshly cut logs stored in damp conditions and may penetrate into the wood. All of these situations are caused by prolonged, excessive exposure to water. The best way to fight mold and staining fungi, commonly referred to as mildew that grows on the building after erection, is to eliminate the excessive moisture exposure, coupled with regular maintenance.

Fortunately very few insects attack debarked dry wood. Of those that do, the most destructive is the powder post beetle. One family of powder post beetle prefers damp wood and therefore is more common in the coastal areas or in situations where the wood is allowed to remain damp. In areas with termite problems, the local guidelines for termite prevention should be followed. Generally, borate treatments are effective in preventing attack from wood eating insects.

LHDI: What about cleaning logs?

Houdek: It is recommended to clean logs yearly, on a dry day, using a garden hose, soft bristle brush and a mild cleaning agent. It may not be necessary to use a pressure washer. Cleaning should be done in a similar fashion to washing a car, starting from the top. Do not use steel wool as the small particles could remain on the logs and cause iron stains on the wood surface.

SOURCES:

Appalachian Log Structures
Ripley, WV
Gaffney, SC
Phone: 800-458-9990
www.applog.com

Canadian Wood Council
Ottawa, ON
Phone: 613-747-5544
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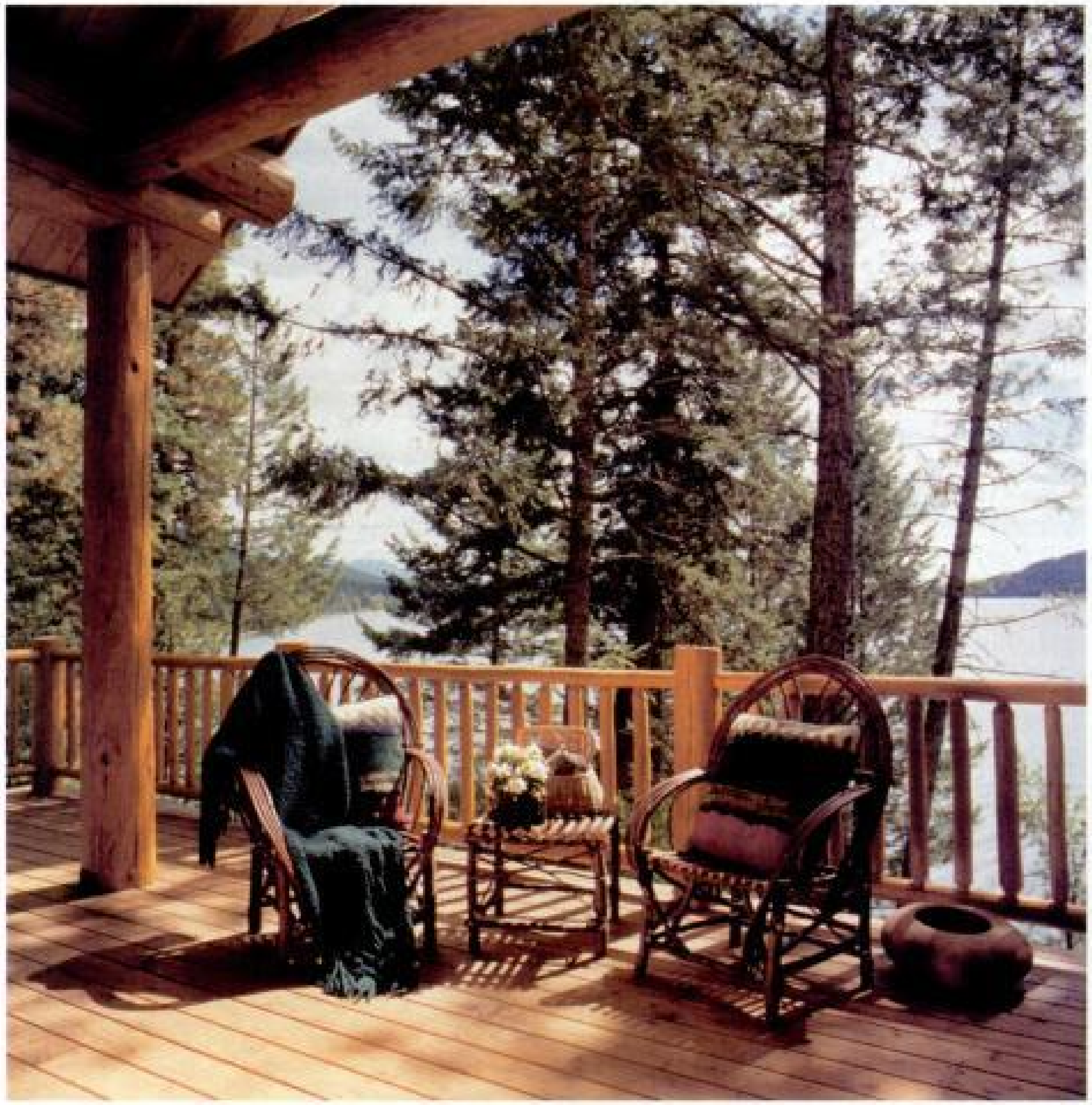
6 Fall Fixup Projects You Can Do Yourself



The leaves are changing and temperatures are dropping; it's time to get your log home ready for winter

BY PETER LINDBLAD

Winter will be here before you know it. And you've got a lot of work to do to get your house, and surrounding property, ready. Some fall fixup jobs require expertise only a professional has. Others you can do yourself.

For those do-it-yourselfers out there, we've come up with six simple projects you can do on your own in a weekend or less. You don't have to buy expensive tools or equipment. Much of what you need you can probably find around the house. Just remember to always follow manufacturers' directions for the products you use.

1. Repair Caulk & Chinking

A major source of energy loss in log homes is damaged caulk and chinking. Fixing it is simple.

Tools and materials. A tube of color-matched caulk or chinking, a toothbrush, a trowel and a solution of rubbing alcohol and water.

What the job entails. First, do an inspection of your home. Look for cracks in the material, especially those with black mold, and places where the adhesive isn't adhering to the log surface. If you have cohesive failure — meaning cracking in the material — squirt some color-matched caulk or chinking into the crack and dab with a toothbrush to get a matching surface finish. If the material has pulled away from the log, clean the surface and reapply with the material that was originally used. Squeeze in the adhesive, or push it in with a trowel and again, texture it so it blends in. Be sure not to insert too much, though, because the material has to stretch.

2. Refinishing Your Logs

Regular reapplication of water-repellant wood finishes can help extend the life of your logs. Every three to five years is a good rule of thumb.

Tools and materials. A brush or an airless sprayer to apply the finish, protective gloves, a ladder to get to hard-to-reach areas and a finish that works with your logs; some oil-based products don't work well on chink-style homes, while some water-based finishes shouldn't be used on milled logs. How much finish you'll need varies from 250 to 450 square feet per gallon, depending on the product. Usually, all that's needed are two thin coats, although some finishes need a third: a water-repellent topcoat to protects logs from the elements.

What the job entails. First, make sure your logs are clean of existing mold, mildew and dirt. Then apply the finish, checking the manufacturers' directions to see if one or two coats is needed. Back-brush as you go to work the finish into the wood and cover areas you may have missed. It also helps prevent lap marks that form when brushing from a wet edge to a dry edge.

Temperature and humidity affect drying times. Generally, the finish should dry in about an hour; it takes three or four days for it to cure if weather and environmental conditionals cooperate. It doesn't take long to complete the standard application. If a second coat is necessary, don't wait too long; water repellents form and reach peak efficiency in about 72 hours. A

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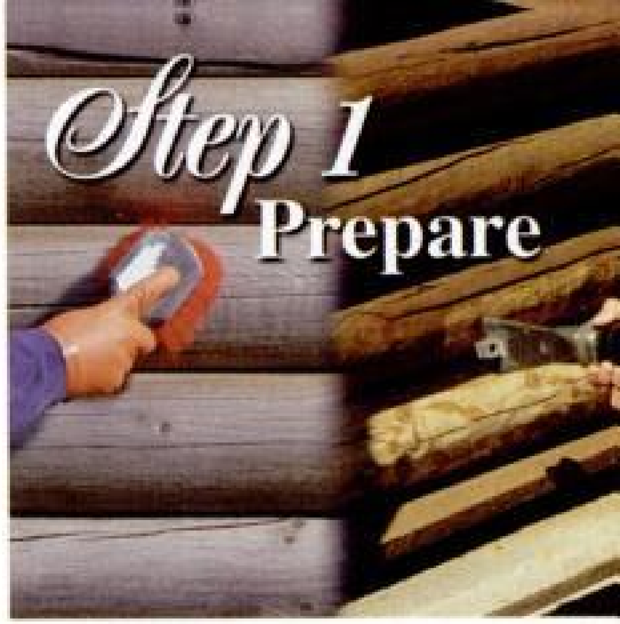

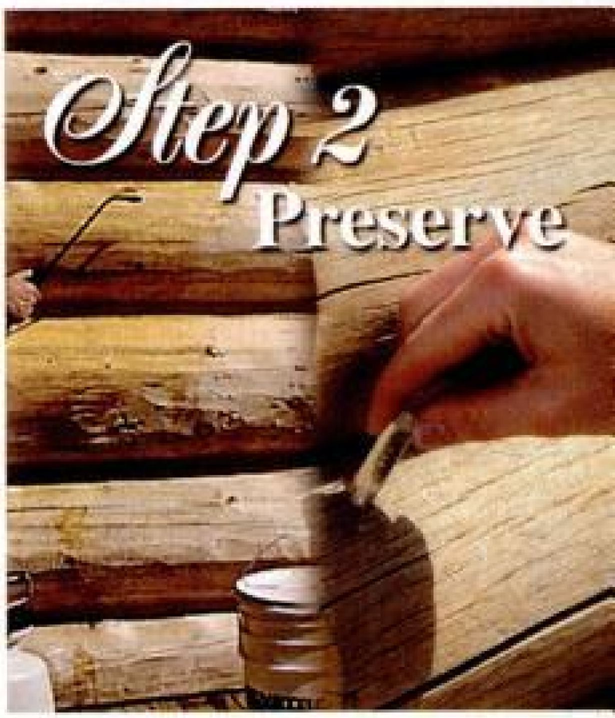

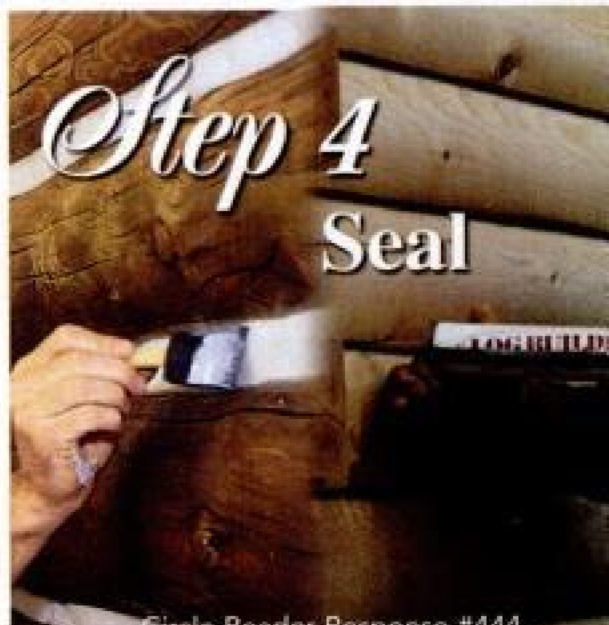

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second coat may be applied over the first coat almost immediately. If you find you can't apply a second coat in a timely manner, do a little extra brushing while applying the first coat.

3. Prevent Heat Loss

The last thing you want in winter is heat escaping from your house. Check your windows and doors to see if warm air is escaping. To prevent energy loss, insulate your windows and weatherstrip your doors.

Tools and materials. To insulate windows, have a cigarette lighter, shrink-wrap film, a hair dryer, double-stick tape and a utility knife handy. For installing weatherstripping on your exterior doors, you'll need measuring tape, tin snips, safety glasses, finish nails, sill seal, a door sweep and, of course, weatherstripping.

What the job entails. To weatherstrip your doors, start by measuring the length of your doorstop. Be sure to measure from the threshold to the top of the doorstop. Cut a piece of weatherstripping — it's best to use rubber weatherstripping with an aluminum backing — to size with tin snips. Then close the door and place the weatherstripping snug against the door, being careful not to press tightly, just hold it so it will make a good seal. Then open the door and attach the weatherstripping to the doorstop with finish nails. You'll do the top piece the same way. Next, install a sill seal on the bottom of the exterior side of the door. It should fit snug against the threshold to stop drafts. Install a door sweep on the interior side to further prevent drafts.

Insulating windows is a simple job. First check for drafts with a lighter and blow dryer. Have a partner stand outside and blow a hair dryer at the window. Inside, you'll light the lighter and move the flame around the window. A flickering flame is evidence of a draft. If a draft is present, cover the window with shrink-wrap film. Start by applying double-stick tape all the way around the window. Place the film against the tape, stretching it around the window and making sure it sticks firmly so it doesn't fall off when you heat it. Heat the film with a hair dryer. Keep it moving so you don't overheat any areas. Watch it tighten until the wrinkles are gone; then trim with a utility knife.

4. Maintain Gutters & Downspouts

Big problems result from damaged, clogged or misdirected gutters and downspouts. Inspect them regularly, especially in the spring, before the rains come, and again in fall.

Tools and materials. A ladder, water hose, whisk broom, rubber gloves, small putty knife, auger, sandpaper, dry rag, fiberglass mesh and roofing cement.

What the job entails. At least twice a year, clean all debris from gutters and downspouts. Use a broom even more often if there are trees near your home.

Start with the gutters. Beginning at the spot farthest from the downspout, remove debris at the edge of the roof, in leaf guards, in open gutters and in leaf strainers. Wash dirt and grit away with a garden hose that has a power nozzle, and brush material toward the downspout with a whisk broom. To dislodge stubborn debris, use a small putty knife.

Before cleaning a downspout, put on your rubber gloves, reach down the drop outlet and remove debris. Then flush remaining debris, which may collect at the elbow, by aiming a hose into the drop outlet. Run the water full blast for 10 to 15 minutes. If needed, clear the downspout with an auger.

Eventually, gutters will need repair. When leaks occur, it might be best to replace entire sections of the gutter. To repair a gutter, first clean it. Then scrape off as much of the rust as you can with coarse sandpaper, or a steel brush or a 1/4" drill and a power rotary brush. Smooth the surface with coarse sandpaper; then wipe with a dry rag. Patch with a piece of fiberglass mesh cut larger than the hole and attach it to the inside of the gutter with roofing cement. Then apply additional roofing cement over the patch. You may also apply a rust treatment or rust-inhibiting paint to stop corrosion.

To prevent future clogging, install wire, basket-shaped leaf strainers over all downspout outlets or screen the length of the gutter with leaf guards. Various types are available. Most are mounted under the lower run of shingles and inserted underneath, although some clamp over the gutter's edge. Leaf guards hold the leaves and other debris on top of the screen, allowing water to flow freely through the drainage system. When dry, the leaves blow away.

5. Clean The Fireplace & Chimney

It's a good idea to hire a chimney sweep to inspect and clean your fireplace and chimney annually, and make sure all working parts are in order. But you can do some cleaning on your own, and fall is the right time to do it.

Tools for the job. To clean the fireplace, you'll need short chimney brushes or flue cleaners, a flat fireplace shovel, vacuum, broom, metal container with a lid and soft bristled brush. Wear protective gloves and clothing and safety goggles, and spread newspapers about to keep the floor clean.

Things to look for. Check for creosote,

Other Fall Projects Around The Home

Before winter sets in, there is a multitude of things to do to get ready.

- Identify and fix leaks around vents, skylights and chimneys and any other openings in your home's roof
- Clean or replace filters, and don't forget to clean the dryer vent, the air conditioner, the stove hood and room fans
- Check safety equipment like smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers to see that they are operational. Replace batteries if needed
- If you have window air conditioners, remove them
- Remove screens and replace with storm windows
- Change the filters for your heating system and have the system serviced

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a highly combustible brown or black substance usually found on the flue, the pipe that runs between the fireplace and chimney. And look for soot, the fine black carbon particles that accumulate on fireplace doors, mantels and decorative brick.

What the job entails. Shovel the ashes into a metal container, then clean the flue with a short chimney or flue brush, using short but forceful strokes. Scrub the outside of the damper with a stiff bristled brush, removing all buildup. Brush away any debris that constricts air flow and check for cracks or corrosion. Damaged or rusted dampers should be replaced right away. To remove soot and fire stains from the firebox, spray on some soapy water, let the solution sit for about 30 minutes, then scrub with a stiff wire-brush. When done, vacuum the floor, making sure any flammable objects are picked up.

Most chimney maintenance should be left to a professional, especially if you notice cracks or loose mortar in the chimney. But you can check the condition of the chimney cap and make sure it's not clogged with leaves and other debris. Look at the flashing and make sure there is a watertight seal around it.

6. Prepare Your Lawn For Winter

Everybody knows about the importance of raking leaves, or dethatching, in the fall. But there are other ways you can prepare your lawn for winter, including aerating, reseeding and feeding.

Tools for the job. A pitchfork or an aerator machine for aerating. A metal-tined rake for dethatching. Seed, and possibly a slit-seeder for reseeding your lawn. A water hose or some kind of irrigation system, and fertilizer, herbicides and lime.

What the job entails. Aerating a lawn provides the soil with much-needed oxygen. Soil type and how much traffic your lawn gets affects how often you need to aerate. For example, a lawn with heavy traffic and clay soil needs to be aerated annually. To aerate a small area, use a pitchfork, or rent a special machine for large areas. Water your lawn first and then test it. See how big the worms are that crawl out. If they're 3" or larger, then continue. If not, or if the soil feels dry, water it again, let it soak and then aerate. When finished, you can fill the holes with peat or sand, or leave them open.

Dethatching, or raking, is a necessary evil. Leaving a blanket of leaves over your lawn will smother the grass below. You need to remove the dead material so the new stuff will grow. You'll know it's time to rake when the amount of dead material between the dirt and the growing portion is about a 1/2" thick. Afterward, you can shred the leaves with a mulching lawnmower and use them for compost. Dethatching can leave a lawn looking bare. That's not necessarily a bad thing.

It makes reseeding easier. Every so often, you need to reseed so weeds or unwanted grasses don't take hold. Check with your local nursery to make sure

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you're reseeding with the right variety. Then, either apply the seed to needed areas by hand or by slit-seeding. A slit-seeder machine inserts seed in slits it makes in sod. It's good for bigger jobs, like when you have a whole lawn to do. Water well after reseeding and put down a layer of straw or pine needles to keep the seed from blowing or washing away.

Fall is a good time to feed your lawn a final application of fertilizer. Use one with a high degree of Phosphorus to ensure a strong root system. Also, apply herbicides to broadleaf weeds, and give your lawn a soil test. If there is too much acid, apply lime.

To protect small deciduous shrubs, cover with a lean-to or some other sort of structure. To winterize trees or larger shrubs, simply water at the right time. Don't water in late summer or early fall. Let them harden off for winter and then in late fall, after deciduous trees drop their leaves but before the ground freezes, give both evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs a final deep watering to last through winter.

SOURCES:

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www.about.com

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www.logcareproducts.com

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www.bobvila.com

Do It Yourself Network
www.diynet.com

Garden Envy
www.garden-envy.com

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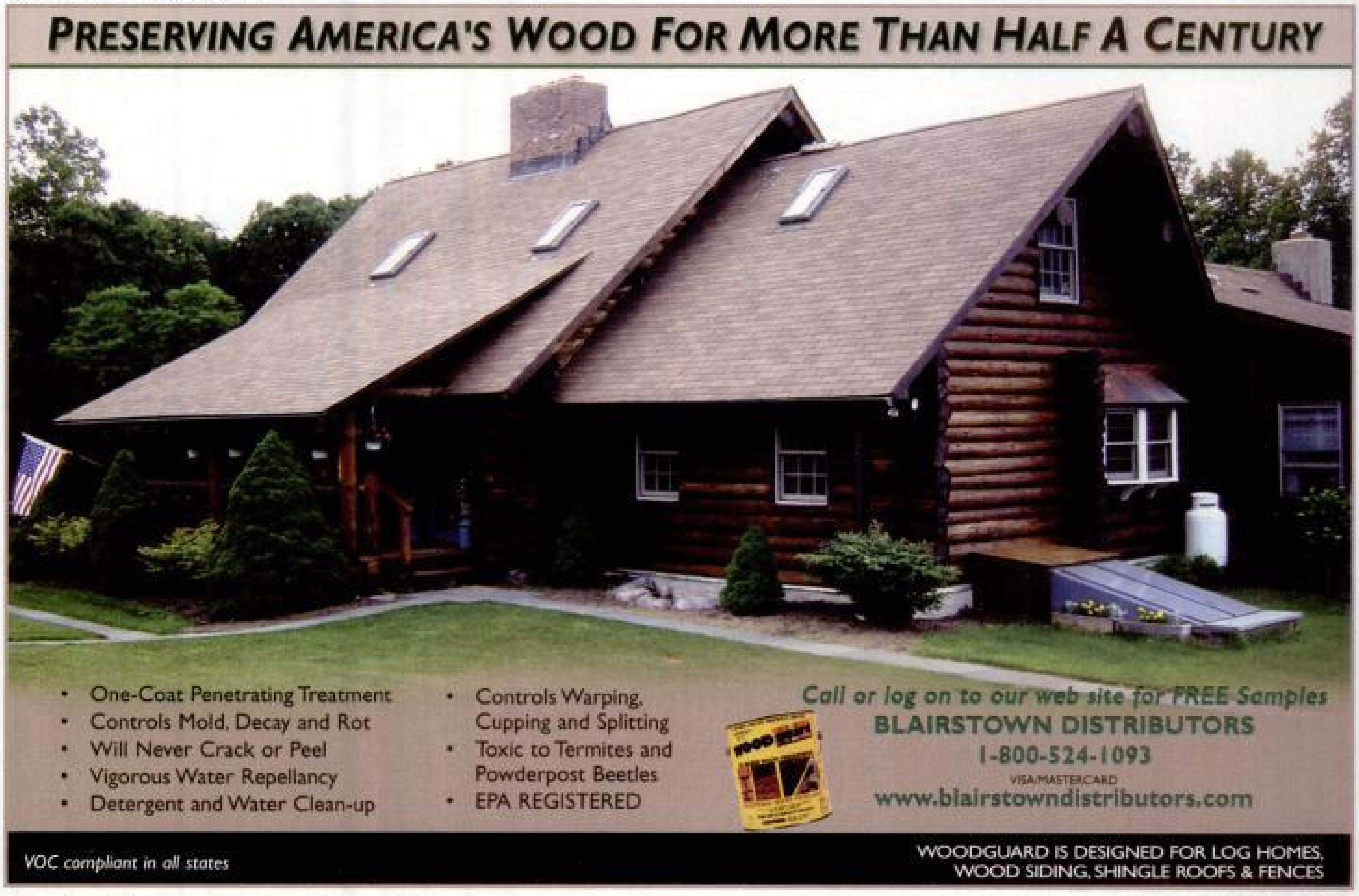

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Window Buyer's Guide

4 simple steps to choosing windows for your log home

BY JAY UHLENBRAUCK

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Choosing windows is one of the most important decisions you'll make as a homeowner. Not only will it affect the look and feel of your home, it will greatly influence your home's energy efficiency. In some cases your log producer may include a certain brand of window with their log package. Often this is because they feel that brand is the best on the market. If you disagree, you can choose the windows you want. Just know what you're doing before you make that decision.

Glazing Options

There are three major glazing options for windows: single glaze, double glaze and triple glaze. Your decision here will depend greatly on climate. If you live in a mild climate, a single glaze window may provide all the energy efficiency you need at less cost. If winters are brutal where you live, the extra money you spend on double or triple glaze windows will be well worth the added comfort. And the higher sticker price will be made up with lower heating costs.

Single glaze windows offer the lowest energy efficiency ratings and allow the highest transfer of energy while permitting the highest daylight transmission. They are also the least expensive option.

Double glaze windows feature two panes of glass separated by an air gap. Argon or krypton gas usually fills the space to provide insulation and viewing clarity. Krypton gas offers better thermal performance than argon gas but is more expensive to produce. Sometimes a mixture of both gases is used. Double glaze windows are the most popular option in the industry. They typically cut heat loss in half.

Triple glaze windows offer the highest possible energy performance, significantly cutting heat loss with three glazing layers, two possible Low-E coatings and two spaces filled with argon or krypton gas. Triple glazed windows are the most expensive option, but may be worth the added cost in cold climates.

Beyond selecting glazings, you can also choose how each glaze is tinted. Bronze- or gray-tinted glass reduces solar heat gain. Remember though, it also reduces visible light creating darker rooms.

Low-E coatings are designed to reduce winter heat loss and summer heat gain as well as block harmful ultraviolet rays. They are available in high, medium or low solar gain. High solar gain is best suited for cold climates. Low solar gain is better for warmer climates since it blocks excessive solar heat gain. Low-E coatings also protect furniture, carpet and interior finishes from premature fading.

Framing Options

Frame choice can greatly influence window appearance and performance. Window frames can be made of one or a combination of materials.

Aluminum is light, strong and durable, making it ideal for custom window design. The downfall: it causes conductive heat loss, which decreases a window's overall energy efficiency. The material also allows condensation buildup which can be especially troublesome with log homes where keeping moisture off logs is important. Plastic thermal break strips are often used on either side of the frame to remedy this problem and improve thermal resistance. Aluminum frames are a great low-maintenance option.

Wood framing is a great option if you want your windows to have a more traditional look. From a performance standpoint, wood is great for energy efficiency. The biggest drawback is maintenance. Wood must be protected from moisture because it is susceptible to warping, cracking and rot. Periodic painting will keep wood windows performing well year after year.

Behind The Numbers

If you want to know at a glance how a window will perform, you must know how to read the numbers. The National Fenestration Rating Council rates windows based on five different criteria:

U-Factor Measures how well the window prevents heat from escaping.

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) Measures how well the window blocks heat caused by sunlight.

Visible Transmittance (VT) Measures how much light comes through the window.

Air Leakage (AL) Measures heat loss and gain caused by air infiltration through cracks in the window assembly.

Condensation Resistance (CS) Measures a window's resistance to condensation on the interior surface.

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These ratings are marked on labels attached to windows like the one above. To understand how to read the numbers, visit www.nfrc.org and click on "Consumer Information" or call the National Fenestration Rating Council at 301-589-1776.

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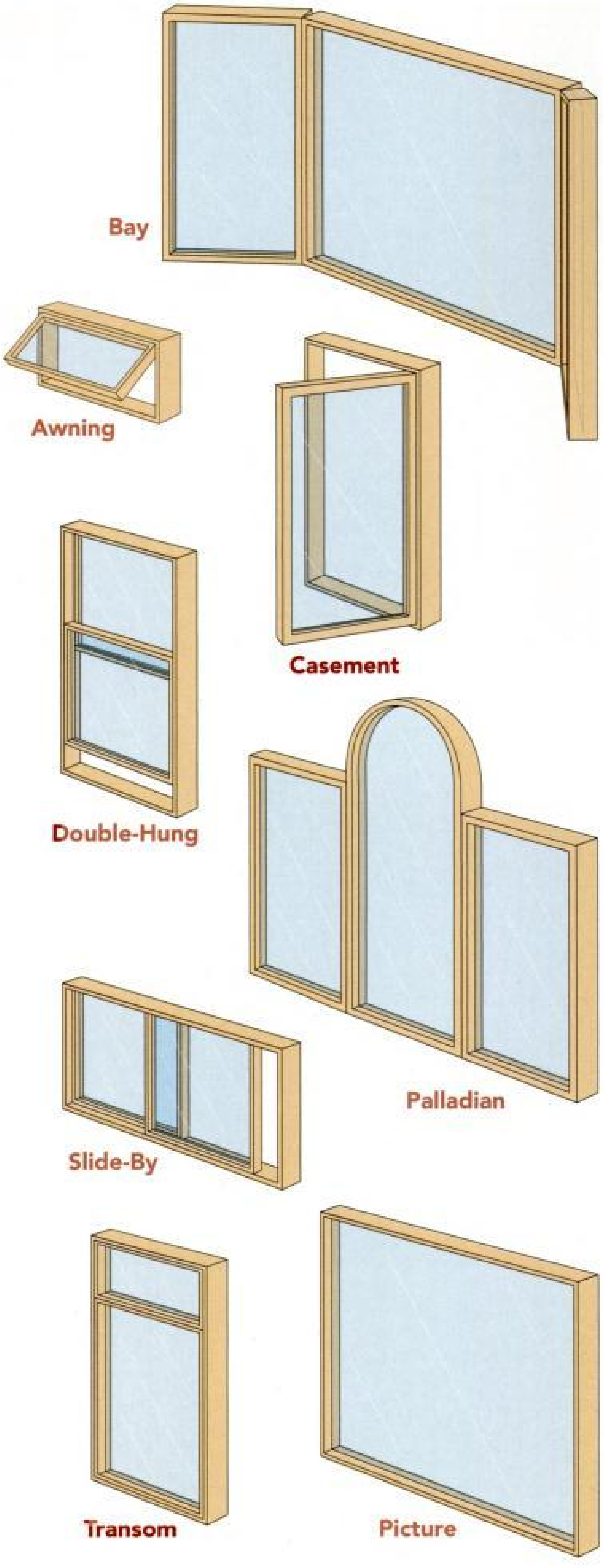

Wood clad frames are another option; they allow you to keep the wood look on the interior but have a vinyl or aluminum facing on the exterior to protect the wood from moisture. This is a popular choice among log home owners.

Vinyl is a versatile plastic with good insulating value. Vinyl frames are available in a wide range of shapes and styles. They don't require painting and offer good moisture resistance.

Fiberglass frames offer the best energy efficiency performance. Fiberglass is a strong, durable material, making it ideal for large expanses of glass and also virtually maintenance-free.

Window Styles

When it comes to choosing a style of window, decide how you want each to look and perform. Some styles are designed for bringing in natural light, some to take advantage of views and some to let in cool summer breezes.

Awning windows feature a sash that pivots at the top. A crank handle opens the bottom outward and up. They are suited for damp climates because they open without letting moisture in.

Bay windows are a composite of three or four windows that project out from the house. They consist of a large (usually fixed) center unit and two flanking units (usually double-hung or casement) angled to the wall. Bay windows provide great straight-ahead and directional views.

Casement windows consist of one sash hinged to a side jamb. They usually open outward from the sill by a crank handle or slider bar. They offer good ventilation and are known for their weather-tight construction.

Double-hung windows feature two sashes that slide along side jambs from top to bottom. They give a traditional appearance and slide up and down for easy cleaning.

Palladian windows have three openings where the central one is usually arched and wider than the others.

Picture windows are large and fixed, making them great for views, but not for ventilation.

Slide-by or slider windows work like double-hung windows, only turned sideways.

Transom windows are small, usually rectangular windows on top of a window or door hinged to a transom.

Grille Options

Divided lites feature separate pieces of glass individually glazed between muntin bars. This is how windows were traditionally built.

Simulated divided lites have muntins that are permanently adhered to both sides of the window. It offers authentic looks with increased energy efficiency.

Removable grilles give the effect of divided lites but the grilles are easily removed for cleaning. They are typically just on the interior.

Windows can make or break your log home. Weigh your options and make an informed decision based on energy efficiency, functionality and appearance.

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Glossary

Casing The interior and exterior trim surrounding the frame of a window or door.

Cladding A skin or sheathing, typically vinyl or metal, covering the exterior portions of a door or window unit.

Drip edge Preformed weather flashing installed above door or window trim.

Grille Ornamental or simulated window muntins that don't actually divide the glass.

Head The area at the top of a window or door.

Header A horizontal framing member over a window or door opening that supports the structural load above.

Jambs The pieces that make up a window or door frame.

Level Perfectly horizontal.

Light (or lite) Glazing (glass) framed by muntins and/or sashes in a window or door.

Low-E glass Glass that has low emissivity due to a film or metallic coating restricting the passage of radiant heat.

Mullion (or mullion post) A vertical member that divides multiple windows within a single unit.

Muntin A smaller, secondary member that divides the glass or openings in a sash or door.

Plumb Standing perfectly vertical. A plumb line is exactly perpendicular to a level surface.

R-value The measure of resistance of a material to the passage of heat.

Rail The horizontal member of a window sash or door panel frame.

Rough opening An opening in framing made to fit a manufactured unit such as a window or door.

Sash The outermost frame that holds glass in a window unit.

Shim Wood wedge used to align a window or door unit in its rough opening.

Sidelight A tall, narrow window beside a door.

Sill The framing member at the bottom of a window or door, or the sloped exterior base of a window or door unit.

Stile The vertical side member of a window sash or door panel frame.

Stop Small molding strips attached to window or door jambs to guide moving sashes and stop swinging doors.

Weatherstripping Strips of metal, plastic, felt or other material used to seal windows and doors to prevent air leakage and water intrusion.

Glossary terms excerpted from Creative Publishing's "The Complete Guide To Windows & Doors." *See book review on page 99 for more information.*

RESOURCES:

Efficient Windows Collaborative
1200 18th St., NW, Ste. 900
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-530-2231
www.efficientwindows.org

Hometips.com
www.hometips.com

National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC)
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Pella Corporation
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www.replacement-window-center.com

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www.startremodeling.com/windows.htm

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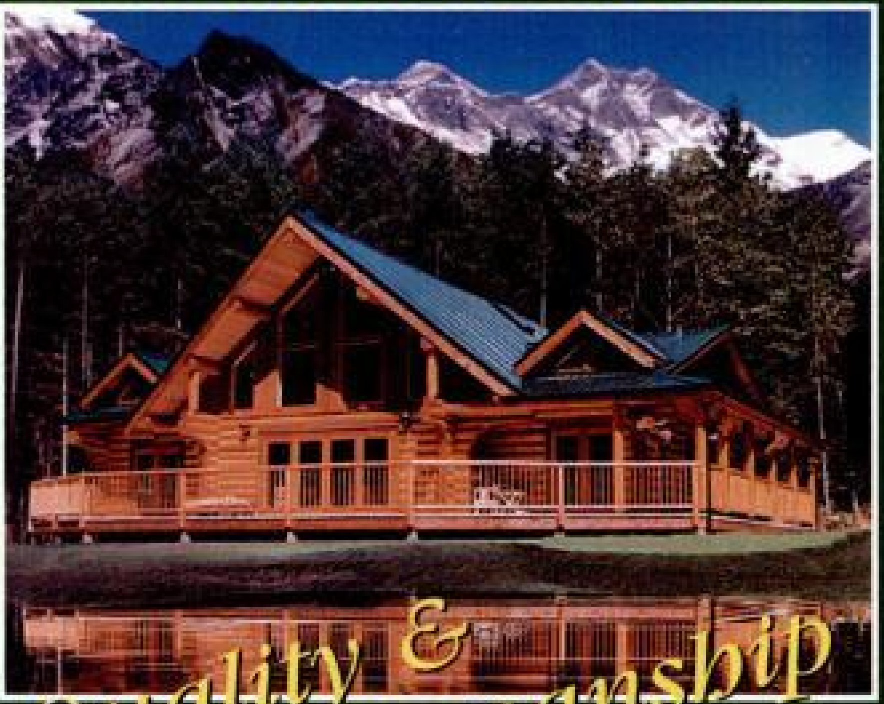

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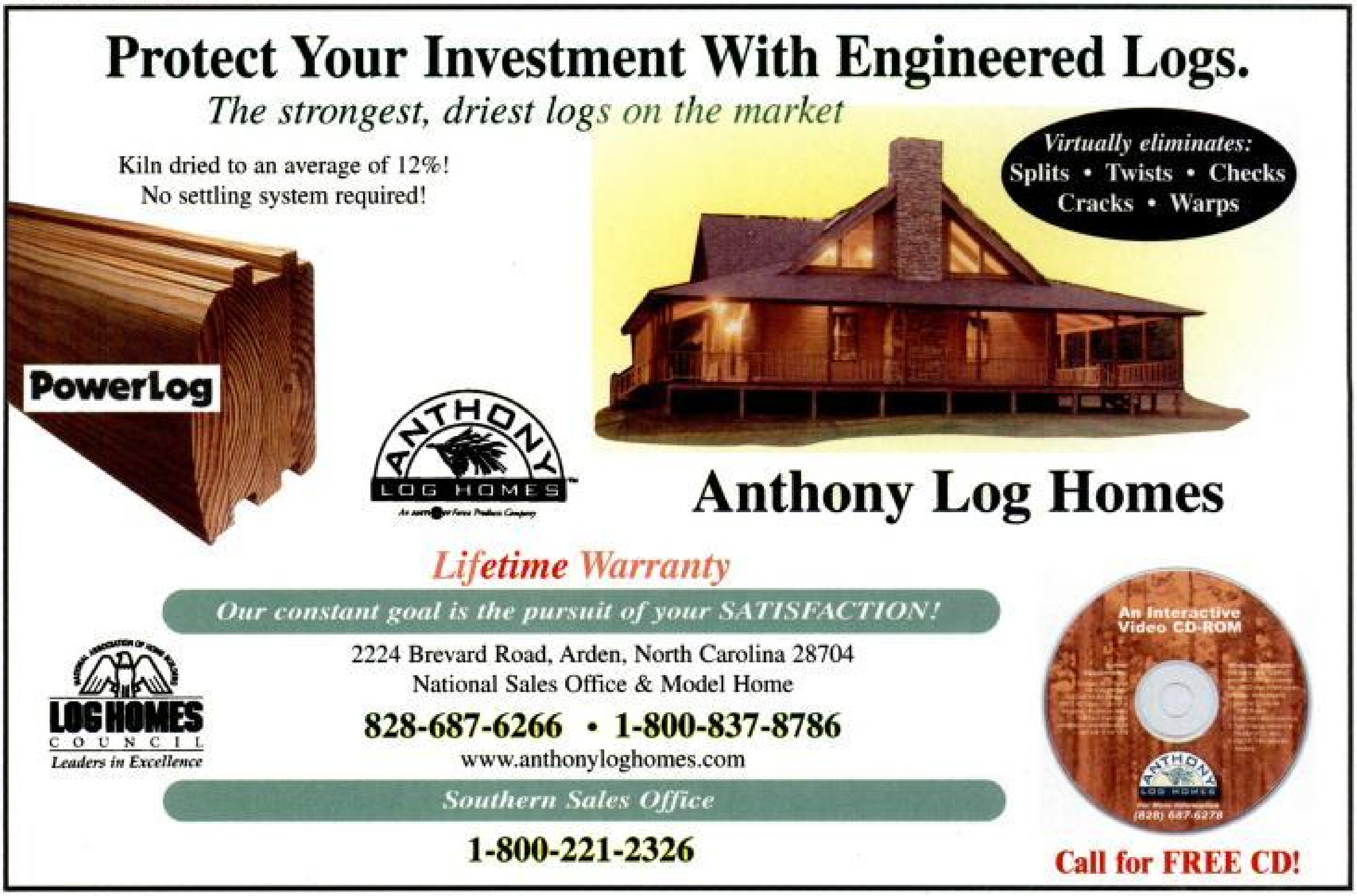

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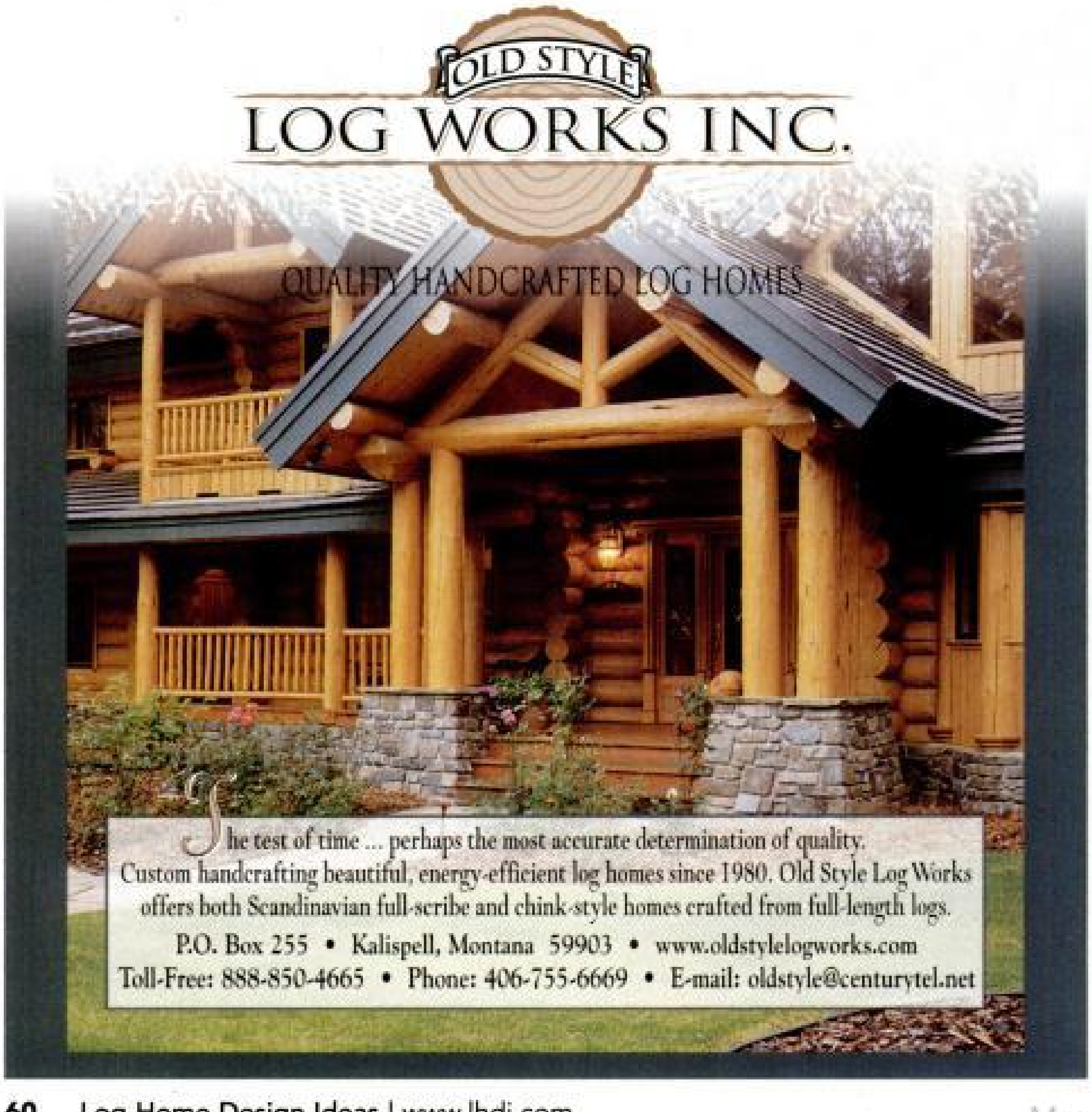

LOOKING To Attend An Event?

The "Calendar" section in each issue of Log Home Design Ideas will keep you informed of future open house, log raising, seminar and workshop dates. Look for it on pages 100-107 of this issue.

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coming in October

We mark our 10th year of publishing *Log Home Design Ideas* with this special issue available only at your local newsstand. Special anniversary features include:

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A look back at the best columns from the last 10 years, including our favorite installments of Builders Corner, Financing, Q&A and Design Matters.

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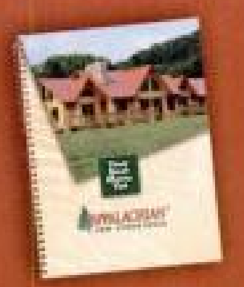

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The Last Best Place

A Midwest couple builds a log home that reflects their love of the outdoors and the Big Sky country setting they chose for their retirement

Several years ago, Ron and Sue traveled west from their home in the Midwest. It wasn't a vacation or a business trip. Rather, they embarked on a shopping trip of sorts. They were in search for a place to retire to.

Going to Florida or Arizona wasn't an option for this couple. They love the mountains too much.

"Both of us are outdoors people and we have often vacationed with our children in the Rocky Mountains. When it came to looking for the best place for our last home, we chose 'The Last Best Place,' to quote the book title – Montana," Sue says.

Ron and Sue's home is tucked into its mountain site to take advantage of the Big Mountain Ski Resort views (above). The landscaping is rustic and natural. Artisans Doors of Montana and glass artist Myni Ferguson created the dazzling leaded glass doors (right) that greet guests in the foyer.

The Right Home, The Right Place

Ron and Sue visited Whitefish, Montana, and the adjacent Big Mountain Ski Resort with the idea of building a new life there. Was it the place? Was it a place their children and grandchildren would enjoy visiting?

"There was no doubt," Ron says. "Having our home up on the mountain, we are only about 20 minutes from town but it feels as if we are living in a virtual wilderness. We have the best of both worlds: all the amenities of living near a small, charming Western town — restaurants, shopping, golf, the lake — yet we live only minutes from the ski lifts. And deer and elk wander through the yard almost daily."

Once the couple found the right location, their next choice was easy.

"Both of us wanted a log home, but until we found just the right location, one that was right for that style of architecture, that piece of the puzzle was undecided," Sue says. "This site sung out for a log home. I think that is what sold us on the lot."

The couple had a collection of books and magazines on log construction "just in case we found the right land," Sue says.

PHOTOS COURTESY ALPINE LOG HOMES • © ROGER WADE

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They had read features on homes in the area. Many of the homes they admired had been built by Alpine Log Homes and LaChance Builders. Soon after the ink was dry on their land contracts, Ron and Sue telephoned Alpine and LaChance.

Natural Reflection

Alpine's design staff and LaChance agree that today's log homes are more and more complex, with technological advances in materials and systems allowing designers and builders to push the envelope. Designs span larger spaces with advances in log home engineering, and Ron and Sue's home is no exception. The couple designed their log home to include the latest in lighting, computer programs that help run the household, heating and cooling, and sound and security systems.

With a keen eye for detail, they began working with the staff at Alpine to design their custom mountain home. Their love of the outdoors was a natural starting point — and also allowed them to create a design that would reflect the home's natural surroundings.

"As we began talking about what they wanted in this home, they repeatedly conveyed their desire to bring the outside in. They wanted a home filled with light, open spaces and views of the magnificent scenery," says Scott Pickles, a designer for Alpine.

Outfitted with granite countertops, Australian cypress wood floors and a gleaming pot rack, the kitchen is bathed in light thanks to south-facing gable windows.

Pickles helped make Ron and Sue's vision a reality, thanks in part to a combination of engineering advances and stronger glass that today allows for expansive windows, virtual walls of glass. "Ten, fifteen years ago there was no way we could be designing windows the size we are today," Pickles notes.

More Than Just Good Looks

Keeping all these things in mind, Pickles worked with Ron and Sue to design a home that would look and function the way the couple wanted.

For the home's main level, Ron and Sue liked Pickles' idea of creating a curved great room with log rafters radiating from the central fireplace. Faceted windows would ensure the couple could look out on the ski slopes, on the distant peaks of Glacier National Park, and on Flathead Valley below. From that pivot point, both literally and figuratively, Scott worked with Ron and Sue to plan the remainder of the house.

The couple wanted an elegant entrance, so they commissioned Artisans Doors of Montana to design the front door. The company's craftsmen teamed up with local glass artist Myni Ferguson to create the stunning leaded glass entry doors that offer a grand greeting. "We took photographs of actual tree branches and mailed them to Sue. She chose the pattern that was carved and then applied to the door," says Artisans CEO Steve Anderson.

To incorporate all of the spaces the couple wanted in the home, Pickles took maximum advantage of the building site's natural slope.

"The hillside location of the house provided the ideal condition for having a lower level," Pickles adds. "This space was laid out for their children and grandchildren." There is a separate living area that includes a fireplace, TV viewing, pool table

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In the great room (top), the colors of the hearth stones provided the inspiration for the home's color scheme. Tinted a rich tan color, the ceilings are hand plastered. Adjacent to the dining area, the family's dogs are captured at play in the etched glass stairway enclosure (above). The log stairs lead to a loft that houses a home office.

and efficiency kitchen. A second master suite, a play area for the grandkids, and a bunkroom complete the lower floor plan. The bunkroom has a separate, outside entrance.

"One of our sons often arrives with several skiing buddies in tow," Ron says. "[The entrance means] the boys can come and go without disturbance." For guests other than family, a completely private guest suite was placed over the two-car garage. The suite also has an efficiency kitchen, sitting room and bath.

Sue had a long list of things that were important to have in the kitchen. She knew she and Ron would be entertaining groups of family and friends so she included on her "want list" two dishwashers, a professional range, and a walk-in pantry. Pickles took notes and sketched an open kitchen plan that encompasses space for cooking, entertaining and taking in the views. There is a double-sided center island; one side is topped with butcherblock for food preparation, the other is finished with granite and is used for buffet serving and as a breakfast bar.

And because barbecuing is a favorite family activity, they needed a covered porch outside the kitchen door. "We fire up the grill winter and summer," Ron says.

The dining room is on the backside of the great room's fireplace and only steps from the kitchen. Log stairs lead to a home office that sits above the dining room. "The dining room has so many wonderful things about it," Sue says. "One wall is stone and log with an etched-glass partition. The opposite wall is all glass, curved like the living room. The ceiling is lower with beautiful log beams, giving it a more intimate feeling."

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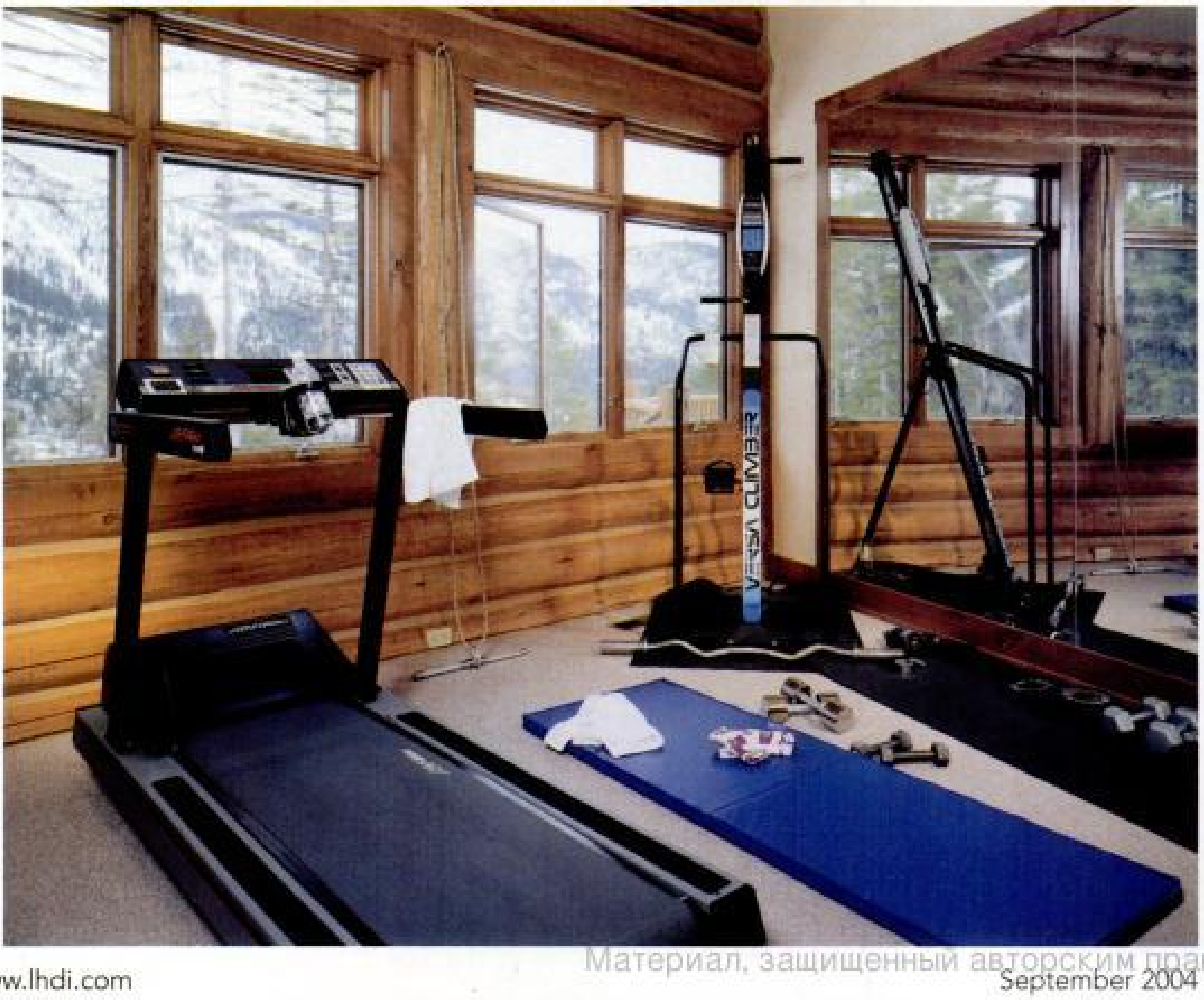
The master bedroom (above) opens onto a large deck with a fabulous view. An iron bed laced with copper offers a pleasant contrast to the rustic logs. Ron and Sue stay fit for their active Montana lifestyle in an exercise room (right) located adjacent to the master bathroom for easy access to the shower.



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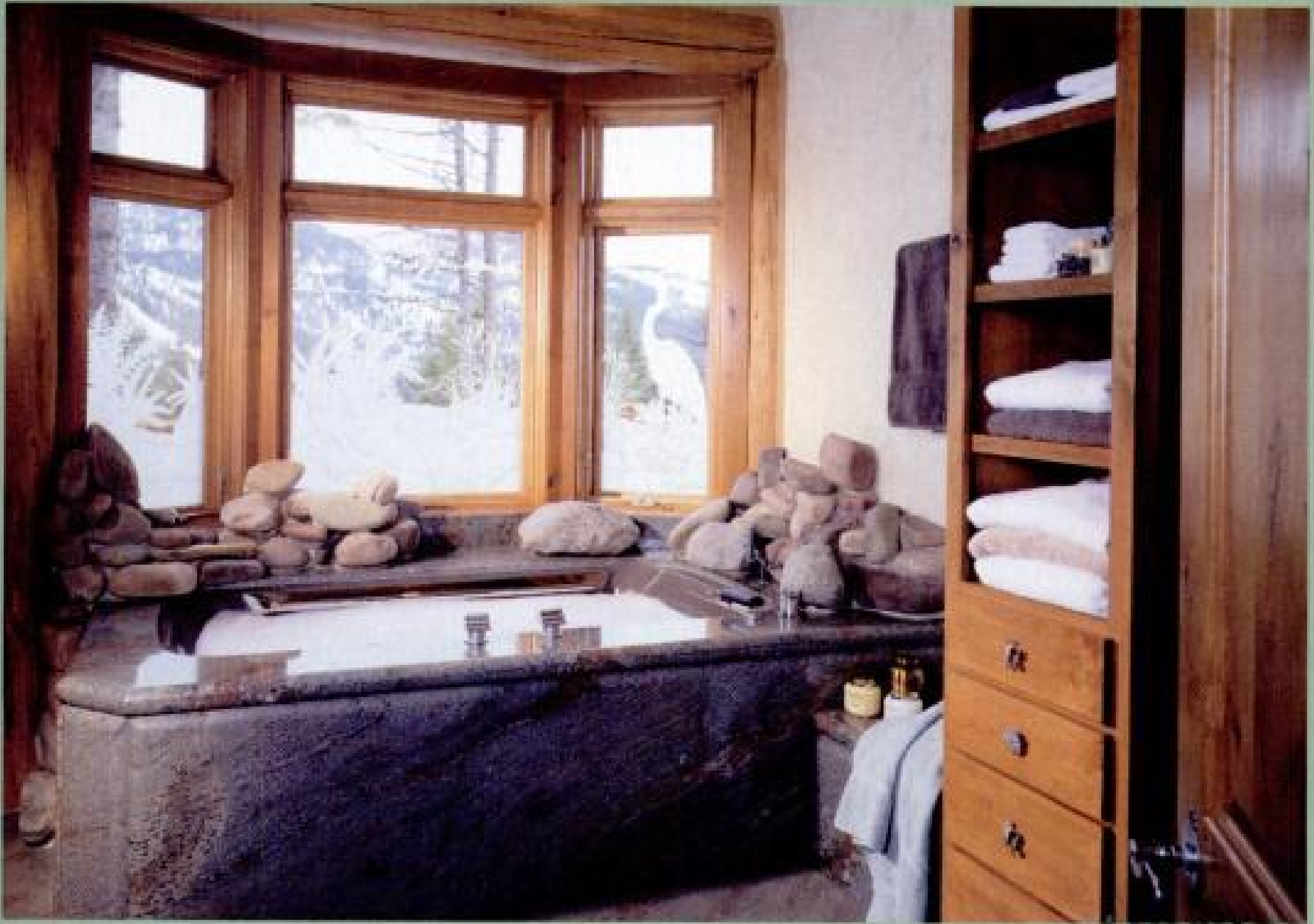

A storage cabinet with frosted glass doors separates his-and-her vanities in the master bath (above). Set into a small alcove, Sue's luxurious tub (left) is surrounded by granite and topped with river stones to create a natural, elegant look. Etched glass guarantees a private bathing experience.

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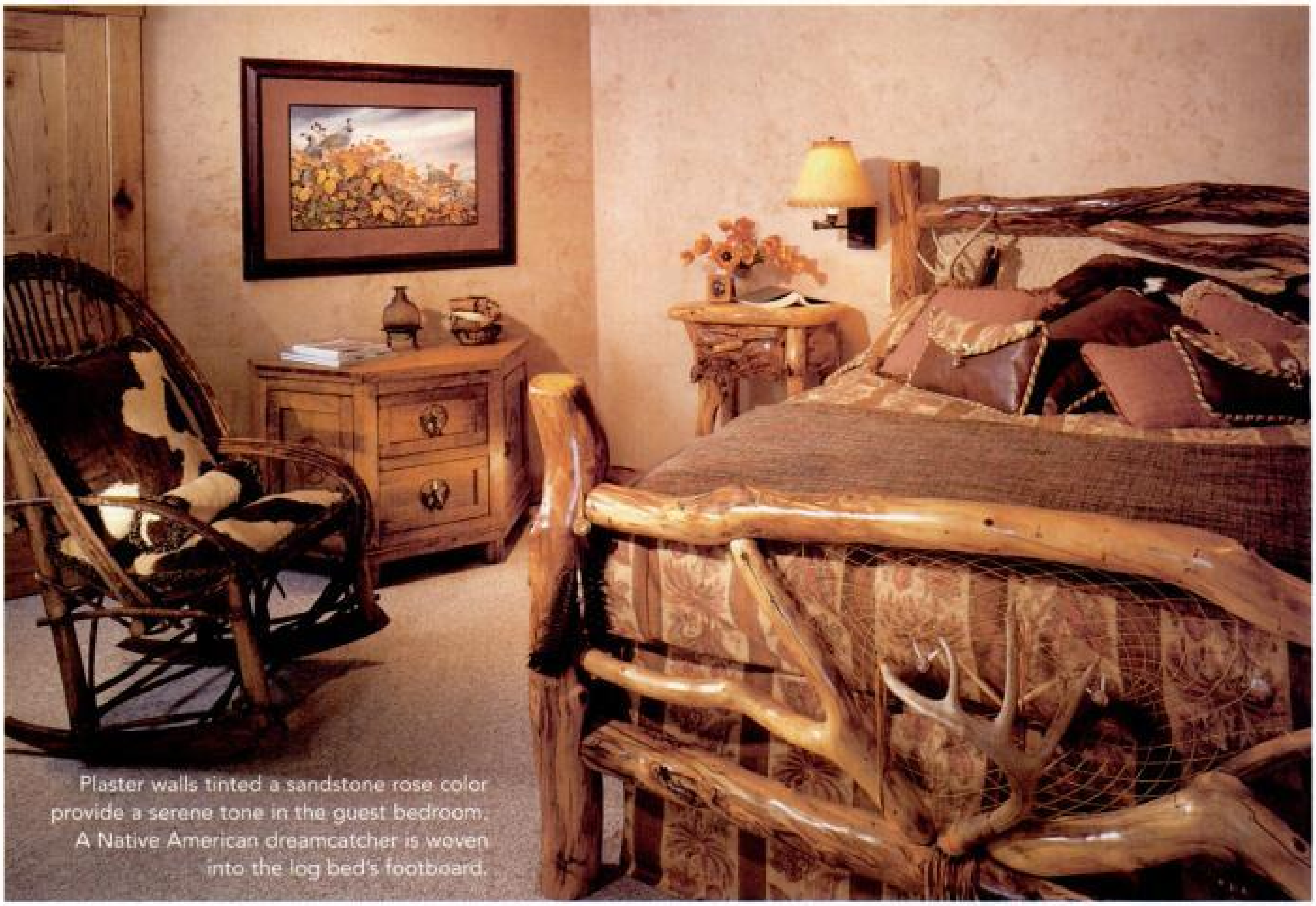

Plaster walls tinted a sandstone rose color provide a serene tone in the guest bedroom. A Native American dreamcatcher is woven into the log bed's footboard.

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Personal Retreat

Ron and Sue agreed the master bedroom would be located on the main level, leaving the lower level of the home for the family room and guest bedrooms. When they have a houseful of visitors, the bedroom and much-used workout room are a private refuge.

"I believe that any house with a large public space needs a place to go for peace and quiet," Sue says. "It is important when you entertain a great deal."

Ron turned the planning of the master bathroom over to Sue and Scott. "All I really cared about was having a large steam shower," he says. "If I could have that, I'd be happy." Ron's shower features granite tiles broken along the top to resemble mountain peaks. Number one on Sue's criteria for the bath was a spa tub with a view.

"After a day out in the snow, this is heaven," she says. LaChance's building team gave an outdoorsy feeling to the tub deck by placing river stones atop the granite. Myni Ferguson etched the glass behind the tub for privacy. Myni also etched ferns, like those found in the depths of the forest during the summer, on the frosted glass cabinet doors.

Uniting it all is a simple color palette that, like the home itself, is inspired by the home's beautiful surroundings. "Ron and Sue wanted to fuse the interiors with what they saw out their windows. Hence, the colors and materials used throughout were natural," LaChance says. Sue worked closely with Dallas designer Ann Musgrave to create interiors of subtle reds, greens, grays and tans. Against the backdrop of Alpine's hand-hewn logs, the plastered walls throughout the house are tinted with those same colors.

And so, in their new log home on Big Mountain, Ron and Sue have found exactly what they had been looking for. "It's a happy, beautiful place," Sue says, "and people love being here. We love being here!"

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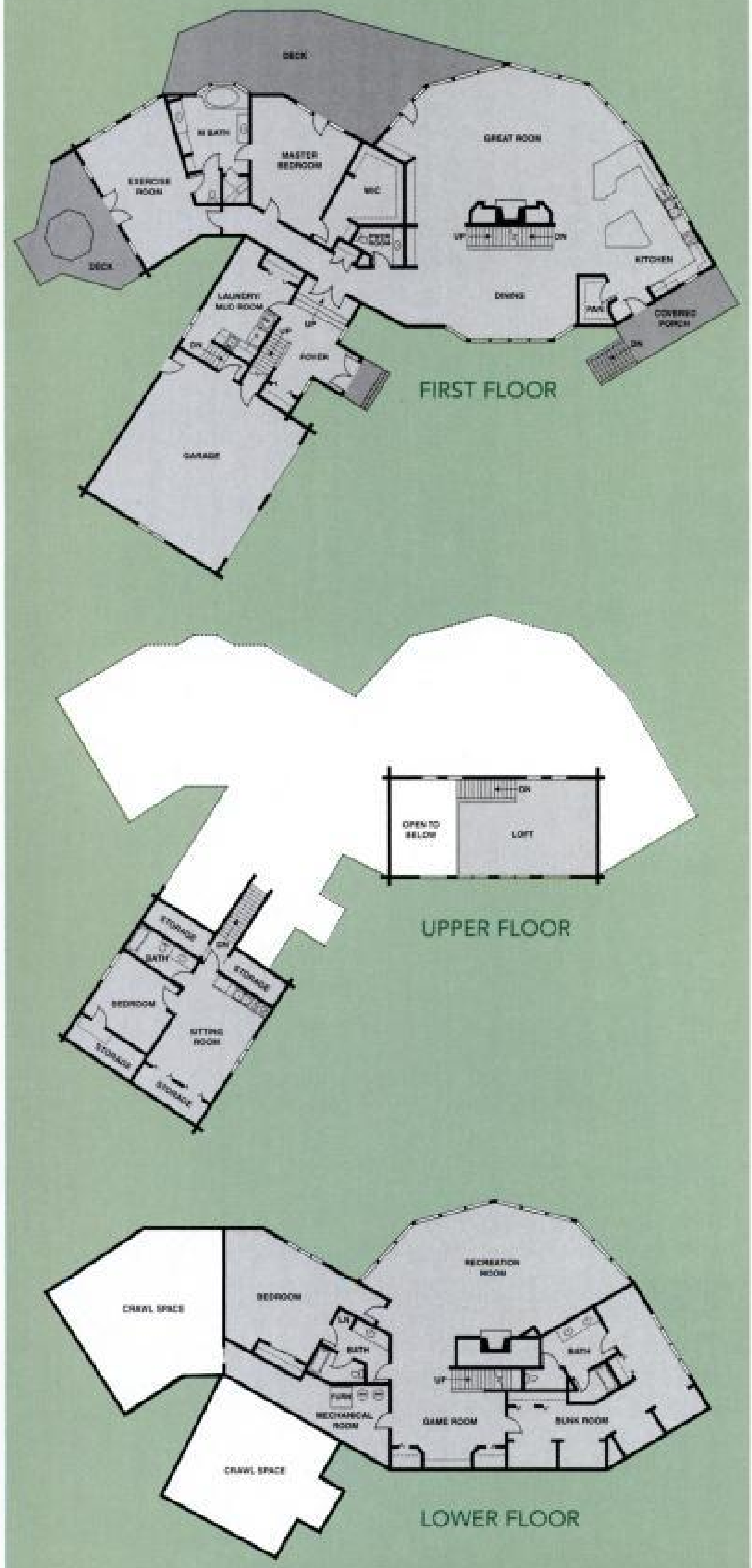
Ron & Sue's Floor Plan



Floor Plan Courtesy *Alpine Log Homes*

In the family room, a custom-made log pool table is the focal point (above). Built-in cabinets house the television and an efficiency kitchen for guests. With a photograph taken by one of their grandchildren serving as inspiration, Ron and Sue commissioned a tile artist to paint the scene on the guest shower walls (opposite bottom).

RESOURCES:

Alpine Log Homes, Inc.
(designer, log producer)
2666 Highway 93 N
Victor, MT 59875
Phone: 406-642-3451
www.alpineloghomes.com

Ann Musgrave (interior design)
Dallas, TX
Phone: 214-697-7551

LaChance Builders (builder)
204 Wisconsin
Whitefish, MT 59937
Phone: 406-862-5597
www.lachancebuilders.com

Artisans Doors of Montana
2741 Hwy. 93 S
Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: 877-862-9060
www.artisansdoors.com

Myni Ferguson (glass artist)
395 Blanchard Lake Dr.
Whitefish, MT 59937
Phone: 406-862-5443

Perma-Chink Systems, Inc. (chinking)
17635 NE 67th Ct.
Redmond, WA 98052
Phone: 800-548-1231
www.permachink.com

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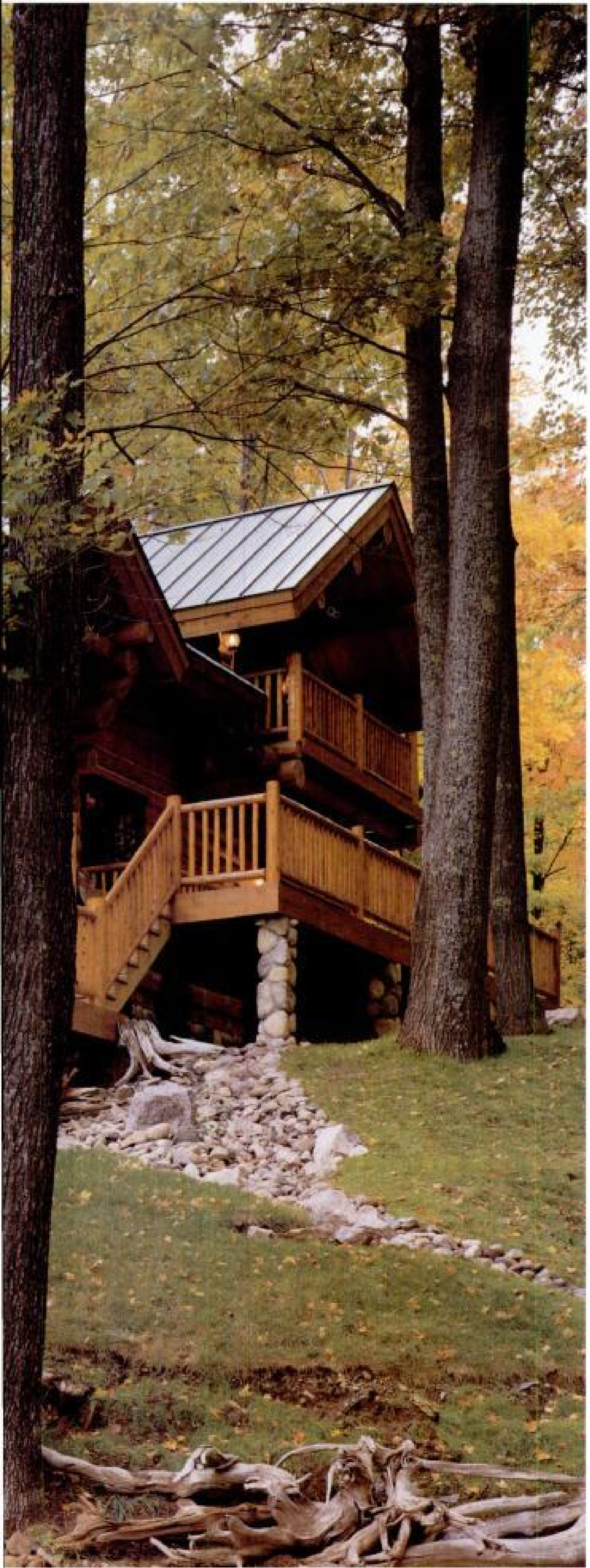

Built to Last

BY JAY UHLENBRAUCK

First-time log home owners Dan Oja and June Parsons learned from others' mistakes and built a log home to stand the test of time

Dan Oja and June Parsons paid special attention to maintenance issues while designing their log home (opposite). Large overhangs protect logs from rain and snow while stone walls raise the logs off the ground and out of reach of splashing water. A drainage ditch lined with rock carries water away from the home.

PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE • STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL

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Twig furniture and birch bark trim around a mirror bring to life the Adirondack feel Dan and June wanted to create throughout the home. The home's décor creates a smooth transition from the natural surroundings just outside the window.

Dan Oja and June Parsons have polished their share of "diamonds in the rough." Since their first remodeling project in 1985 they have become authorities on home restoration. When the couple bought land on Upper Michigan's Dead River Basin in 2000, however, they finally met their match in a 1970s log home that was beyond "fixer-upper" status.

"It was a mess," Dan says. "It had a lot of maintenance problems — the kind of stuff that happens when a log home isn't designed right or taken care of."

The couple bought the cabin and surrounding land sight-unseen and were hoping most of the damage was cosmetic. When an inspection revealed structural damage, however, they knew it was time for Plan B — they would build a new cabin.

The sight of that dilapidated log cabin might have been enough to scare off most homeowners, but not Dan and June. It just made them want to do things right.

"Before we saw that cabin, I don't think we knew all the issues," June says. "We thought, 'It's just a house with log walls, how tricky can that be?' That home really opened our eyes. We saw what can happen when a log home isn't designed or built right."

Salvage Lot

Even though they had to tear down the existing cabin, Dan and June didn't consider their purchase a bad investment. The surrounding land was well worth the trouble. The couple's three-acre lot slopes down to 200 feet of lake frontage with a nice sand beach. The property is an ideal northwoods site complete with a stream that runs past white pines, birches and maples. And since they were able to salvage the foundation from the original cabin, they weren't exactly starting from scratch.

"We liked where the home was sited," Dan says. "We are an equal distance from the lake and the road, so it's good for privacy and we aren't looming over the lake."

And since the previous owner owned a concrete company, it was a heavily poured foundation. The couple designed their floor plan to fit the foundation's footprint

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Crisp white chink lines between the logs facilitate the "busy look" that June says helps the home feel more natural. An open floor plan helps traffic flow and makes the home a great place to entertain. Large windows and skylights bring in plenty of natural light.

and accommodate the existing fireplace. Unfortunately, the fireplace wasn't as easy to salvage as the foundation.

"We realized later the fireplace had been in a sunken living room, so the firebox would have been below where the new floor level was," Dan says. "You hate to tear down and rebuild an old rock fireplace like that, but it just didn't work out."

The Chosen Ones

When it came time to select a log home company, Maple Island Log Homes was an easy choice. Dan and June liked the look of handcrafted log homes and Maple Island's office was near their site.

"We spent a couple years tearing pictures out of magazines of homes we liked and it seemed like most of them were Maple Island homes," Dan says. "We wanted a traditional log home with big, uneven logs. We didn't want uniform manufactured logs."

Dan and June didn't realize at the time that handcrafted construction was more involved than manufactured log construction, but they had confidence in Maple Island and Northland Builders, the same builder that worked on their previous remodeling projects.

"Handcrafting is more challenging, but it adds to the appeal," Dan says. "Milled, pre-shrunk lumber may make the design and building easier, but the guys from Maple Island knew what they were doing."

Settling Issues

Scott Heikkila from Northland Builders acted as Dan and June's general contractor. He had built custom homes for more than a decade, including several log homes, but since this was his first Maple Island home, Dan and June asked him to take special precautions.

"We saw a video on building log homes and it really helped us understand the issues with building a log home, so we had all the builders watch it before they built our home," June says.

Though he knew his way around log construction, Scott admits the video was a good review.

"Handcrafted construction is a little different," he says. "The biggest thing is allowing for shrinkage. You have to allow bigger openings around windows and doors. You have to be more flexible and do some creative trim work."

To address the shrinkage that would eventually occur in Dan and June's house, Scott's crew left 3" gaps above all windows and doors. "Basically you have two pieces of trim and one slides down over the other as the logs settle," he explains.

A 14" diameter pine center post in the great room supports the roof as logs settle.

"It's fitted with a 1½" bolt in the basement so we can adjust the ceiling height as the logs settle," Scott says. "Two hydraulic jacks are placed on the tie log on either side of the center post to hold it up as the center post is lowered. We lowered it once in the beginning, then at six months and again at a year. Maple Island told us to allow for 3" and it came down a little more than 2". We still check it, but it should be pretty close to where it will stay."

Proper Treatment

From the very beginning, Dan and June made sure their logs were given the royal treatment. A wood restoration company came in as soon as the logs were stacked to give the home its first line of defense.

"They hand-sanded all the logs to remove marks and roughness," Scott explains. "Then they sprayed them with a cleaner and rinsed them. While the logs were still damp, they applied a borate treatment (to prevent mold and insect infestation). As soon as that dried, they chinked the logs and applied stain to the exterior and then applied a clear finish coat inside and out."

Dan and June have a restoration com-

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The fireplace in the great room features a shallow firebox with angled walls that kick heat out into the room. Rather than enclose the unit with glass, Dan and June opted to leave the firebox open, trading heat efficiency for ambiance.

pany come twice a year to inspect and take care of any problems.

"It's a really good idea to have a professional look at your house every year to check out caulking, stain and sealant," Dan says, "especially in the first couple years."

Beyond wood care, Dan and June knew the design of their home would greatly determine the life of their logs. Having a log home company that addressed these issues was important.

"We use wider overhangs (3' minimum) to give additional protection to the logs, especially the corners," says Eric Gordon, sales manager for Maple Island Log Homes. "Today log homes are built higher off the ground than in the past when they were typically on slabs directly on the ground. This helps to prevent the constant backsplash of water from roof runoff." For this same reason Dan and June decided not to put a deck on the main level of the home.

"We didn't want water splashing off the deck onto the logs," Dan says. "Besides that, we didn't want to shadow the area outside the walk-out basement."

Easy Living

Dan and June wanted a durable log home, but they also knew the importance of building a functional home. An open floor plan creates good traffic flow and allows the home to live larger than it is — something the couple found to be really helpful.

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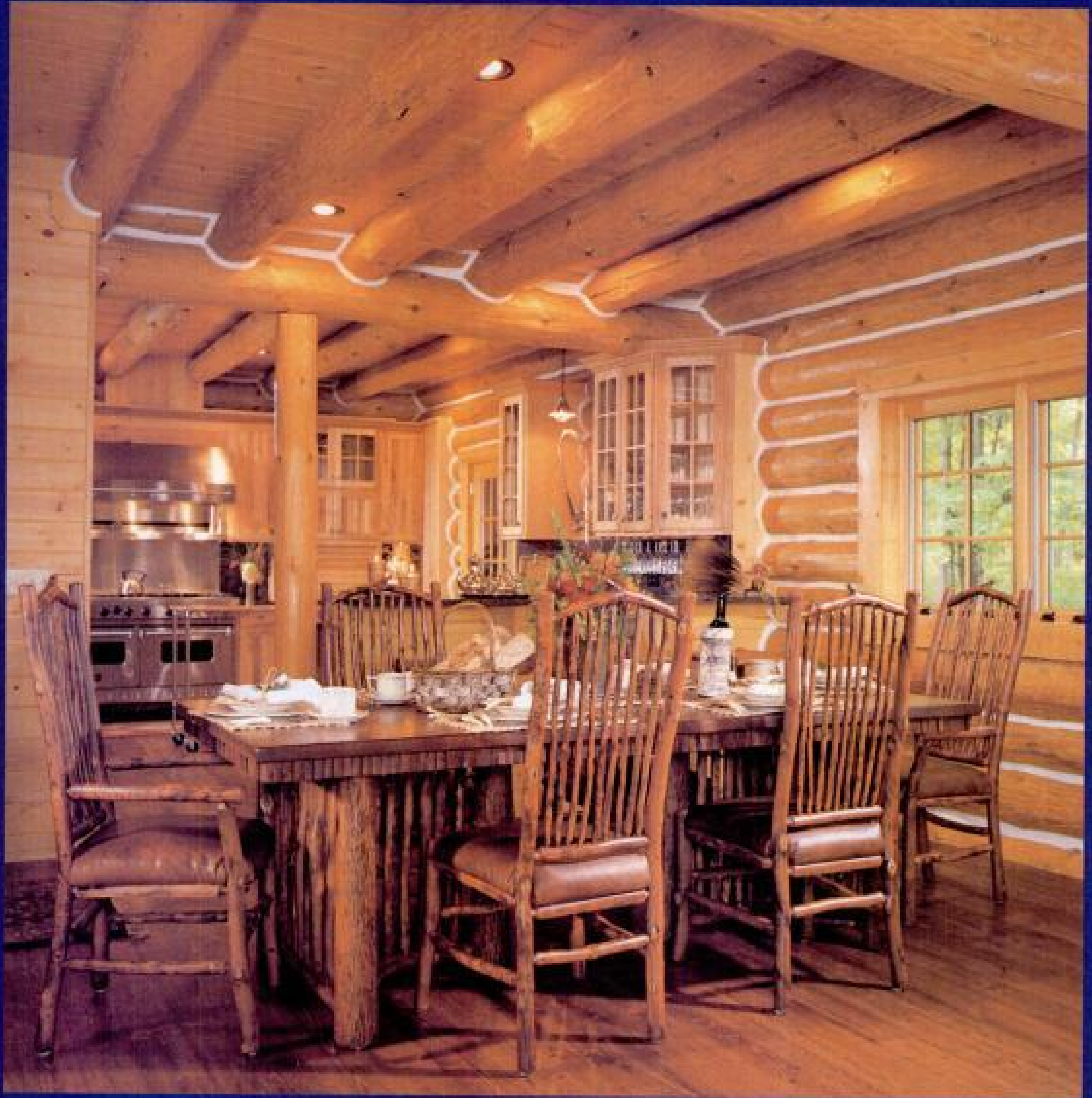

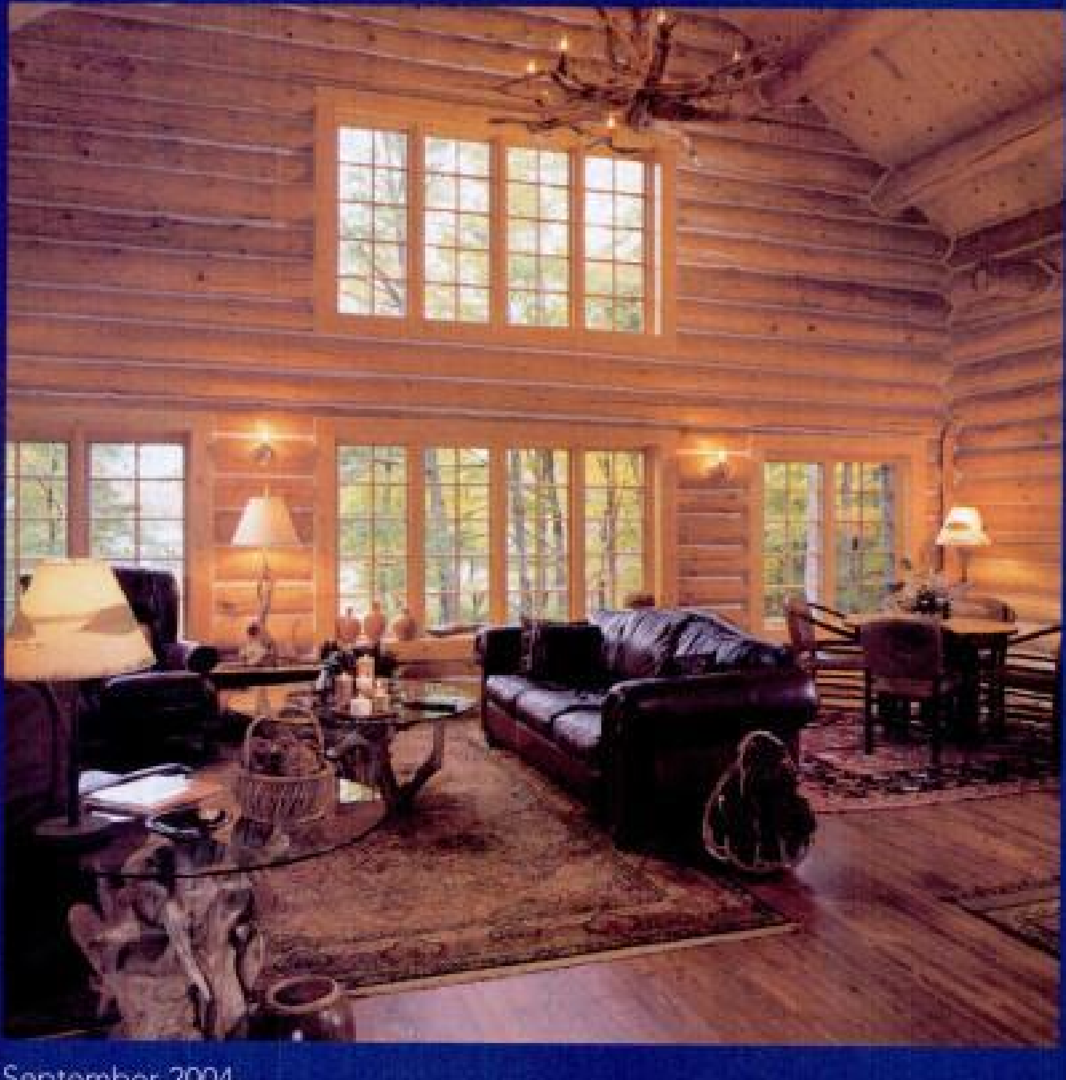

The kitchen (above) is outfitted with professional-grade appliances including double ovens and two sink areas with restaurant style sprayers. "It's very good for entertaining," June says. "It's big enough to have several people cooking and cleaning at the same time." Dan and June didn't want fancy rounded windows in their rustic log home. "I wanted square windows like you'd see in an old trapper's cabin," June says. The double paned, true-divided glass windows (left) feature roll-down screens that disappear into the header of the window frame when not in use.

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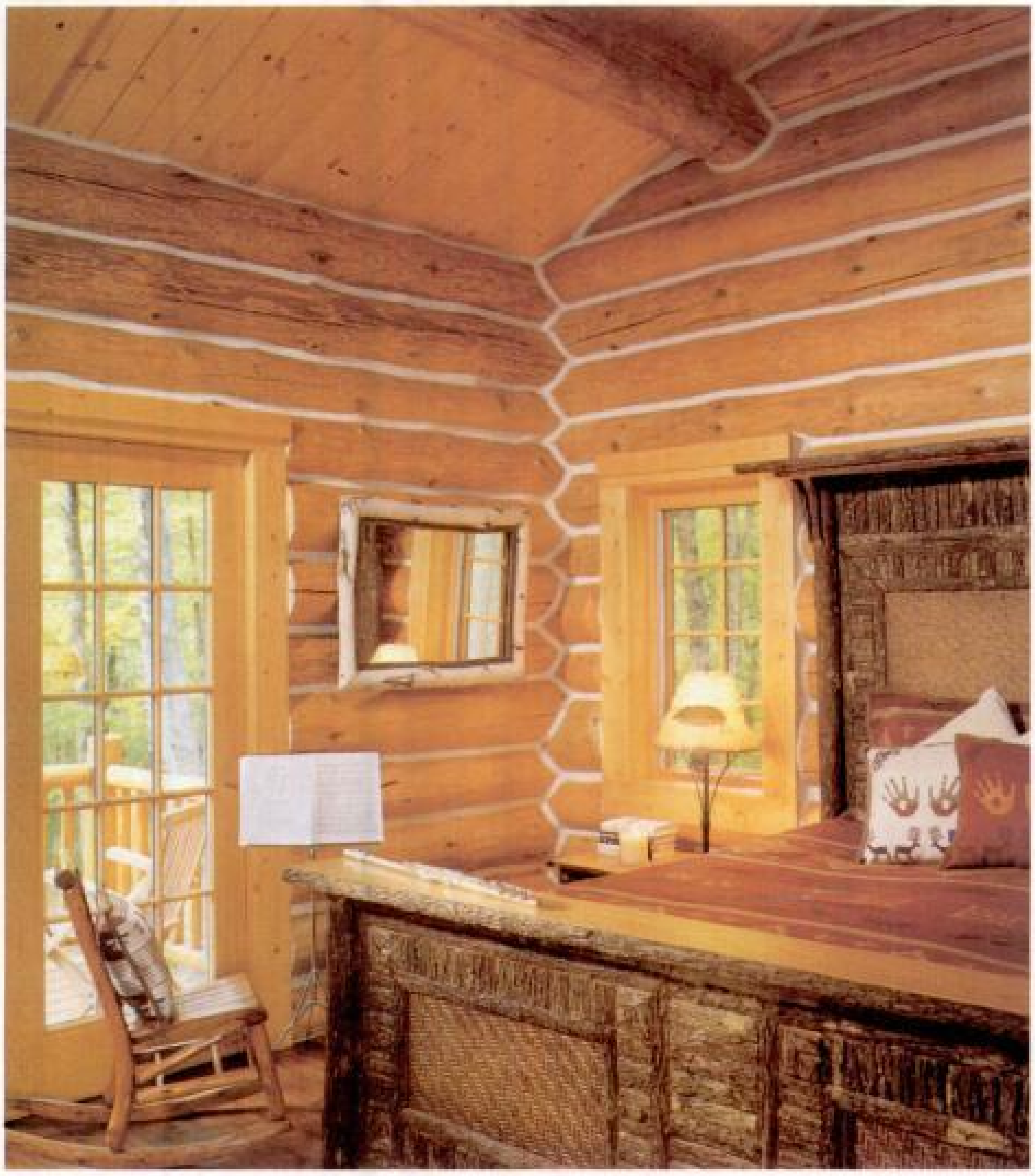

The master bedroom (above left) features the same Adirondack feel carried throughout the home. Wall and roof elements seem to collide in the corner of the guest room (above right) showcasing the artistry of this handcrafted log home. A green metal roof (opposite) complements the logs and performs great, cutting down on snow and ice buildup.

"We've had sit-down dinners for 40," June says. "We didn't really design this home specifically for entertaining, but it works quite well. We have a lot of friends and family in the area."

Before the home was built, June proposed adding two courses of logs to the original plans.

"That was one of the best changes we made," Dan says. "We always liked high ceilings; it makes the home seem lighter and airy." The extra logs were relatively inexpensive and they raised the ceiling over the kitchen area to almost 10 feet. "I'm really glad we did that," Dan says.

Let It Be

Since their log home in Michigan is a summer home, Dan and June didn't hesitate to go all-out with cabin style décor.

"We have a fairly traditional home in Georgia and our home in St. Thomas has an island feel, so we were comfortable letting the log home have a rustic Adirondack feel," June says. "We let our log home be a log home."

While still in the planning stages, June read up on Adirondack camps.

"That's the look we were going for," she says. "I like the squareness and sturdiness of it." June also liked the idea of mixing many different natural elements.

"I like the busy look," she says. "I think it should look like a forest with twigs and bark and different textures. It's just very natural."

And as seamlessly as Dan and June's well-built log home fits in with its natural surroundings, their neighbors probably don't mind it will be there for a good long time.

RESOURCES:

Maple Island Log Homes
5046 S. West Bayshore Dr., Ste. A
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
Phone: 800-678-0175
2387 Bayne Rd.
Twin Lake, MI 49457
Phone: 800-748-0137
www.mapleisland.com

Northland Builders
309 W. Washington
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-225-1279
www.northland-builders.com

Perma-Chink Systems, Inc.
Phone: 800-548-1231
www.permachink.com

Timeless Wood Care Products
6526 Schamber Dr.
Muskegon, MI 49444
Phone: 800-564-2987
www.timlesswoodcare.com

IWR Log Restoration Co.
Mike Denman
Munising, MI
Phone: 906-387-2749

Chocolay River Trading Co.
(furnishings & décor)
2210 U.S. Hwy. 41 S.
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-249-2782

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Check Your Hot Spots

Having restored hundreds of log homes over the last 15-plus years, restoration expert Mike Denman knows just what to look for when guarding a log home against the elements. Mike performed the initial maintenance on Dan and June's logs including sanding, cleaning, borate treatment, chinking and finish. He backs up his work with yearly check-ups.

"Having worked on the home, I know where the hot spots are going to be," he says. By "hot spots" he means particularly susceptible areas that are beat up by the sun, moisture and other elements. These areas require extra attention.

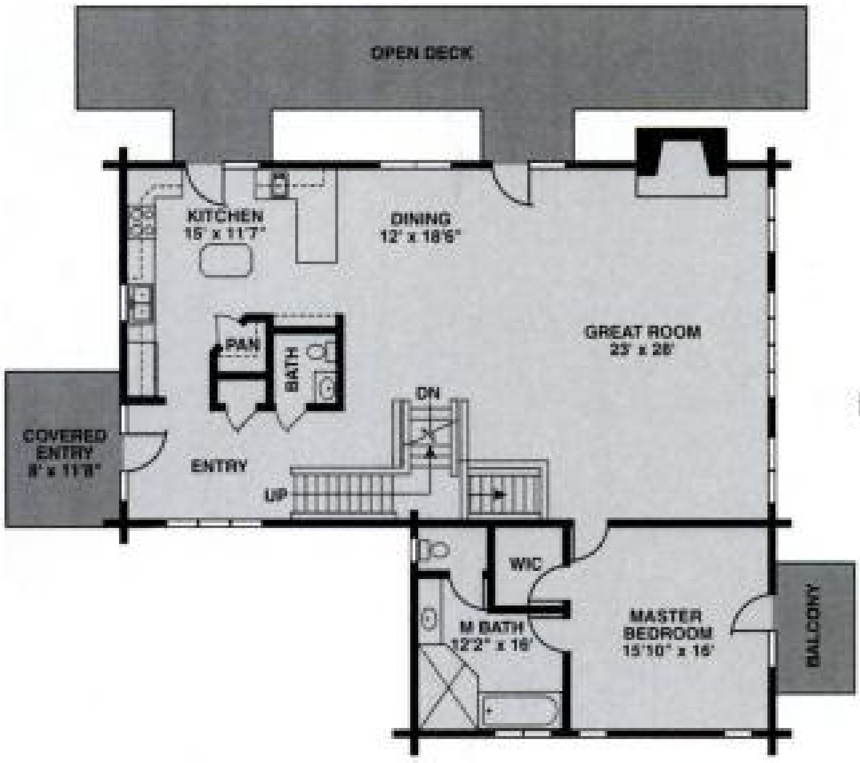
"Most of the time maintenance isn't done on the whole house," Mike says. "The hot spots may need attention every couple years and you might not have to do anything to the rest of the house for five years."

Good design helps eliminate hot spots. Dan and June understood that when they built their log home. Here is a list of things that, according to Mike, create hot spots:

- Overhangs that don't offer ample protection to logs from sun and moisture
- Poor chinking/caulking application
- Decks built too close to the lower log courses where rain can splash up onto them
- Improper or non-existent rain gutters. (If the bottom log courses are a good distance off the ground, this isn't as important because backsplash won't reach the logs)

Floor Plan Courtesy Maple Island Log Homes

Dan & June's Floor Plan



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

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Amazing Transformation

A remodeling project gives a semi-retired couple the northwoods lakeside log cabin they've always dreamed of

BY PETER LINDBLAD

Originally just a screened porch, the above structure was converted into a four-season porch with 5' high windows for viewing Perry Lake. When it gets chilly, the Downhams fire up the gas stove in the corner. When they want to relax outside, they gather around the firepit in the backyard (left). "We call the home 'Peaceful Pines;' it's a scene that's the Wisconsin northwoods at its best," Tom says.

PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE • STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL

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The Downhams wanted to jazz up their log home's entryway, so they found a company in Montana that does etched glass and had an outdoor scene carved into their new front doors (top). To beautify the front of the home (above), the couple installed flower planters under the windows. Landscape plantings and rock walls add natural texture to the yard. "The lot was so flat in the front of the house," Tom says. "We asked ourselves, 'How could we make it more friendly?'"

Tom Downham stood on his porch and stared at the 15-foot pile of old wood siding in his yard. He had just written out a $50,000 check, partial payment for a remodeling project that would convert a luxurious, three-season conventionally-framed lakeside home in Wisconsin's northwoods into a cozy log cabin.

All he had to show for his money was that pile. "I caught my breath a couple of times," Tom says. "The whole inside of the house was gutted and I wondered, 'Are we doing the right thing?'" A year later, when most of the renovation work was finished, he had his answer. Their gamble had paid off, and two years afterward, their project won the Wisconsin Builder's Association Remodel of the Year Whole House award.

Holding Court

Nestled in a forest of pines, the home sits beside Perry Lake in the northwest Wisconsin community of Cable.

The previous owner was prominent Minnesota attorney and restraurateur Louise Saunders. She owned the internationally renown eatery, Charlie's Cafe Exceptionale, and hobnobbed with the best and brightest legal minds in the country. In fact, two Supreme Court justices and an attorney general once stayed at the house.

"It was a very nice home, with six bedrooms and six baths," Tom describes. "Inside it was all beautiful half-inch mahagony, walnut, hickory and teak. The woodwork was very dark and there were narrow hallways and a narrow single door leading to the kitchen."

The Downhams bought the home in September 2001, ending a long search for waterfront property that would accommodate the couple's desire for a log home.

"You could tell it was a nice home, but it had gotten old," Theresa says. "It deserved to be brought back. It would have been a shame if it had been torn down and not brought back again."

Years before, Tom retired from work as a corporate executive and the couple escaped to northwest Wisconsin to enjoy the great outdoors. A Wisconsin native who played football at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Tom is an avid hunter and fisherman. He met Theresa, who is originally from New York, in 1986 and on the day they got married, they embarked on a three-year trip that took them throughout the United States. But Wisconsin kept calling them home.

"It was quite an experience, and we realized during it that we could live anywhere we wanted to," Tom says. "But northern Wisconsin was where we wanted to come back to, like salmon going back upstream."

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Remodeling 101

Thinking of converting an existing conventional home into a log home? It's not such a crazy idea.

Tom and Theresa Downham did it, and so have several clients of their northwest Wisconsin Wilderness Log Homes dealership. The Downhams laid northern white pine half-logs over the cedar siding of their stripped-down lakeside home. You can do the same.

What are the advantages? For one, it's cheaper than building new. "To totally remodel a home to the bone, you'd probably be saving at least one-third the costs," Tom figures. "You're saving the cost of building the structure of the home."

That's not all. "The biggest savings, especially with vacation homes on water, is that when those older homes were built, those people had first choice of the premier lake lots," Tom says. "Now when you go look for a new lot to build on, there aren't any, so you have to remodel or tear down and build new to get a nice lake lot."

Be prepared: such projects can be daunting. When a client comes to Downham for help, he does four things:

• Helps them to visualize what can be done. "This is the biggest challenge," he says. "We go for a walk with them around their house and talk about what ideas they may have, like say they want to take a wall out. Then we take them out to three or four other houses we've done and show them how somebody else did the same thing."

• Gives both the good news and the bad news. "We talk about what needs to be done," Tom says. "So, the good news might be that you'll get a more open layout. The bad news is you need additional structure."

• Explains hidden costs. "Once they decide what to do, what the cost estimate is, then I explain to them that once they get into the walls, they may find the wiring isn't very good or that the house needs new insulation or plumbing," Tom says. "That's what happened for us. So, you don't really know what expenses there are until you get into the walls."

• Prepares them to see devastation. "It's a little scary at first and a little bit of a downer to see a home when you're tearing it apart," he says. "But once it's torn apart and you start the actual building, then you'll be able to visualize again what it's going to look like."

Tom & Theresa's Floor Plan

Before

After

Floor Plan Courtesy Wilderness Log Homes

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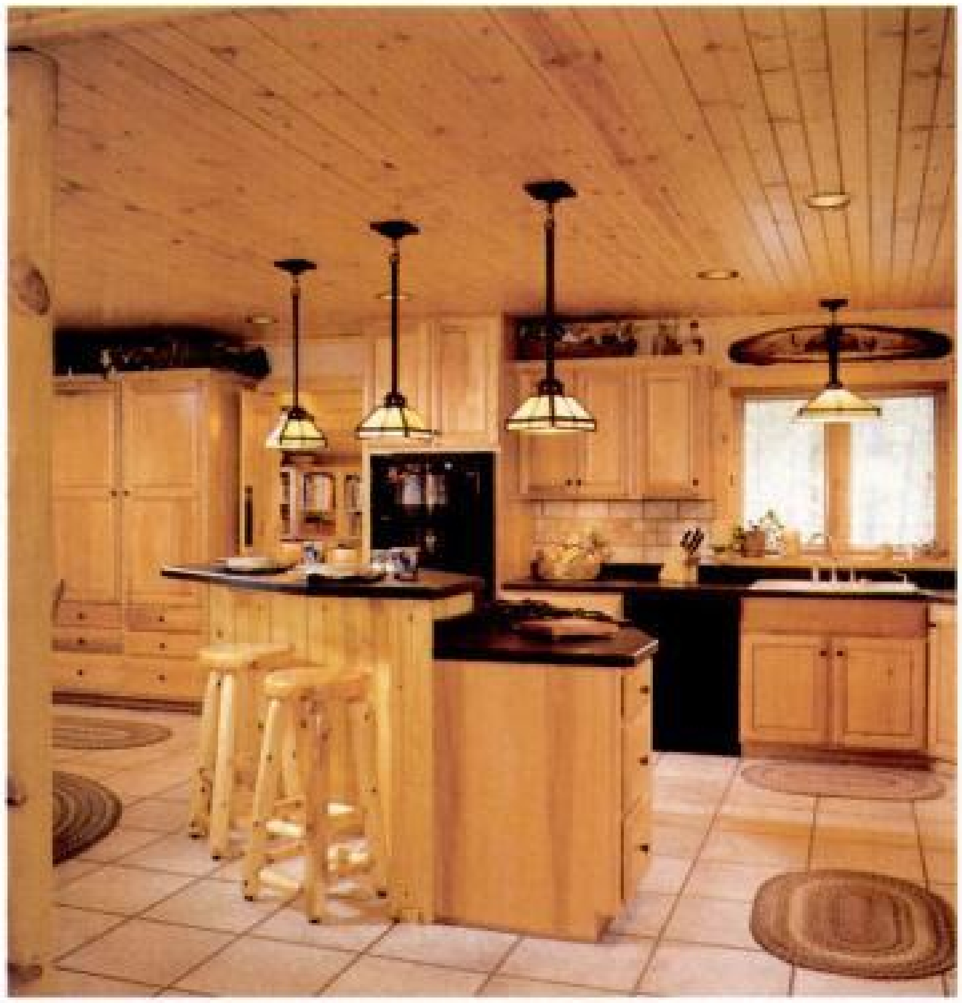

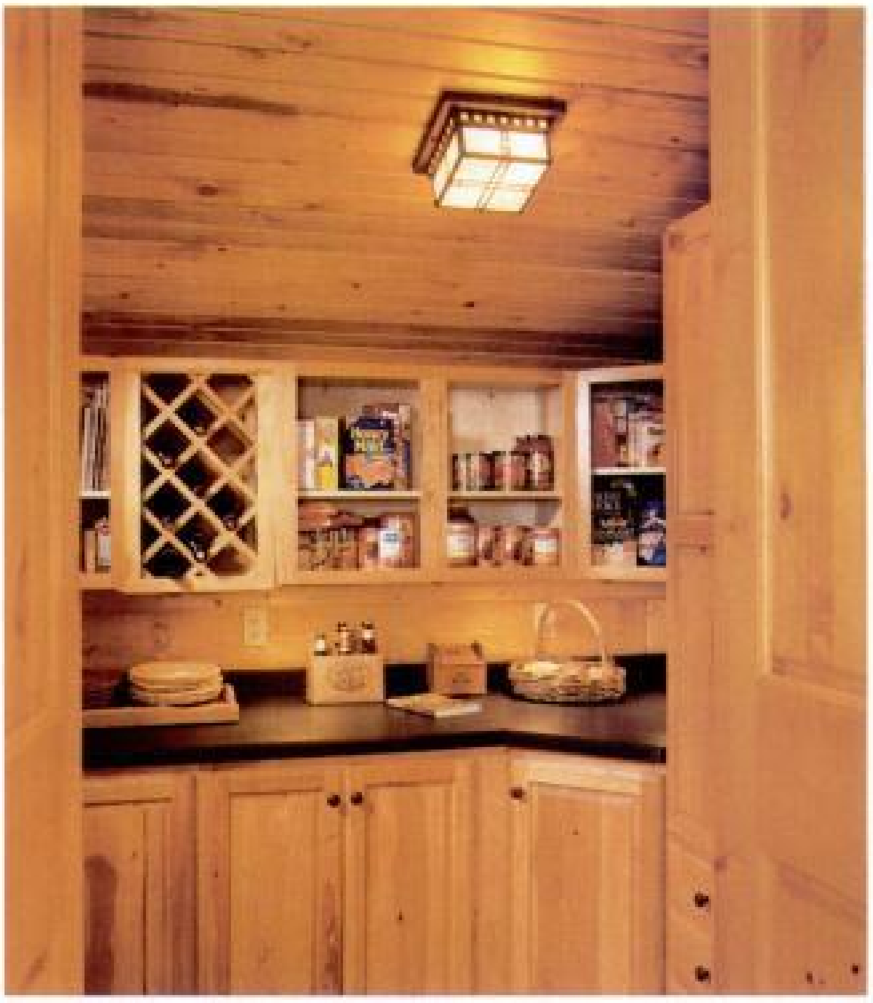

To brighten the home's interior, the Downhams installed more than 100 spot and cam lights like the recessed lights in the kitchen (above left), which features hickory cabinetry. "We used lights to set the mood," Tom says. To make the small kitchen more functional, Tom and Theresa turned the original home's screened porch into a 12'x14' step-down pantry (right).

Continued from page 80

Though Tom retired from corporate life, he stayed busy, starting four new businesses, including a real estate office and a Greatwood Log Homes dealership. The Downhams signed on with Wilderness Log Homes after the company bought out Greatwood.

It was through his work as a Realtor that he and Theresa found the Saunders property.

"We were looking for a lot to build a log home on, but to find that perfect lake spot with privacy was so expensive," Tom says. "Up here, a 100-foot lot can cost you $400,000 before you even start building. Then all of a sudden we found this older home and the property still had value, so we went the remodeling route." The land was too beautiful to pass up.

"It's a small spring-fed lake with a sandy bottom and it's full of fish," Tom says. "It's surrounded by towering pines. I love pines. They have that wonderful smell and in winter time the place has a wonderful color. It's like a little pine forest and the driveway is a half mile long and it goes through a woods with lots of maples. In the spring, summer or fall it's unbelievable."

"The original home was way too good to tear down," Tom says. "We loved the floor plan, how it fit on the lot and the fact that it was a quality constructed home."

Wilderness Venture

The Downhams didn't move to northern Wisconsin intending to settle down. The first thing Tom did upon arrival was send out a market study to area resort and business owners asking what services were needed. Property management was one of them.

That's what prompted the Downhams to start a real estate office. Once that office was up and running, Tom focused his interest on the log home business and wrote to major log manufacturers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan to see about becoming a dealer for one.

"It was a close call between Greatwood and Wilderness," Tom says. "I liked Greatwood because of their manufacturing. The Wilderness management and support team is the best of the best."

The Downhams were with Greatwood for three years. They've been with Wilderness for the last seven, so it was natural for the Downhams to turn to Wilderness for help with their remodeling project.

"The original home was way too good to tear down," Tom says. "We loved the floor plan, how it fit on the lot and the fact that it was a quality constructed home."

Tom McCue, senior sales manager for Wilderness, toured

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Several walls were removed from the original structure to create the open floor plan the Downhams wanted. That open concept is evident in the dining room, shown here from the four-season porch. Notice the faux painting on the walls, which was done by two local women who etched a pinecone theme into eight layers of paint and plaster.

The Cost Of Remodeling

To find out what a remodeling project would cost, do what the Downhams did.

"In our case, we brought a major sub-contractor to the house, and I said to him, 'Tell me how much structure I'll have left — our house had a basement, a roof and frame — and what it would cost to build all that from scratch.'"

Tom estimates that a log home remodeling project would cost about 30 percent more — because of higher labor and material expenses — than doing a conventional remodel. "What applies for new construction, applies to remodeling," he says.

On the other hand, "I tell people they're going to save heating expenses because with a half-log wall you have an R-value of 36." Plus, log homes appreciate more in value over time because they're considered family heirlooms and it's difficult to find ones to buy.

the home and talked with the Downhams to find out what they had in mind. "We had a long discussion over the course of a few weeks," McCue says. "They had already done a fair amount of research."

It was a different kind of project for Wilderness. "Usually, we work with customers on an entire house plan," McCue explains. "On this, we worked room by room to see how the kitchen would flow with the rest of the house, how the dining room worked with the kitchen, for example."

McCue and Wilderness designer Chad Senkbeil worked on the initial layout from sketches they and the Downhams had drawn up. The biggest challenge was designing the home to flow with the terrain.

To that end, the Downhams chose to use Wilderness' northern white pine half-log system. The 8" high half logs were screwed into the home's existing studs, so the first step was to determine how sound the frame was.

Peeling Away The Layers

Tom Downham compares the project to peeling away the layers of an onion.

"When we bought the place, we wanted to brighten up the inside and make it a contemporary log home," he says. "Our vision was narrow compared to what the finished product was."

The original home was a three-season structure. The walls were filled with R-9 insulation which was removed and replaced with heartier R-19 insulation. With the addition of the half logs, the home's walls had an R-value of 36. To make the home more resistant to cold, the Downhams installed a forced-air heating system and replaced all the single-pane windows with double-pane windows. That wasn't all.

"As long as we were in the walls, we figured we'd replace the wiring, the plumbing and on and on and on," Tom says. They also put on a new roof.

When all was said and done, all that remained from the original house were the two fireplaces, the foundation and the frame. The basic footprint stayed the same, but the

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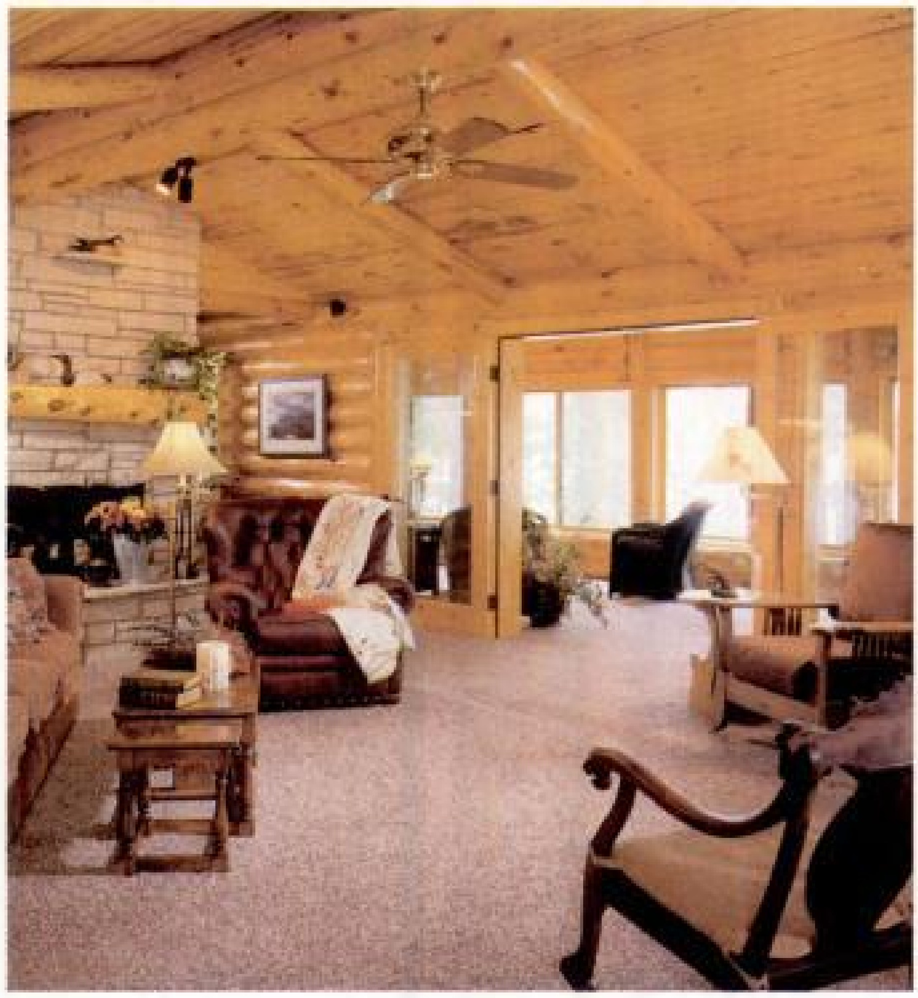

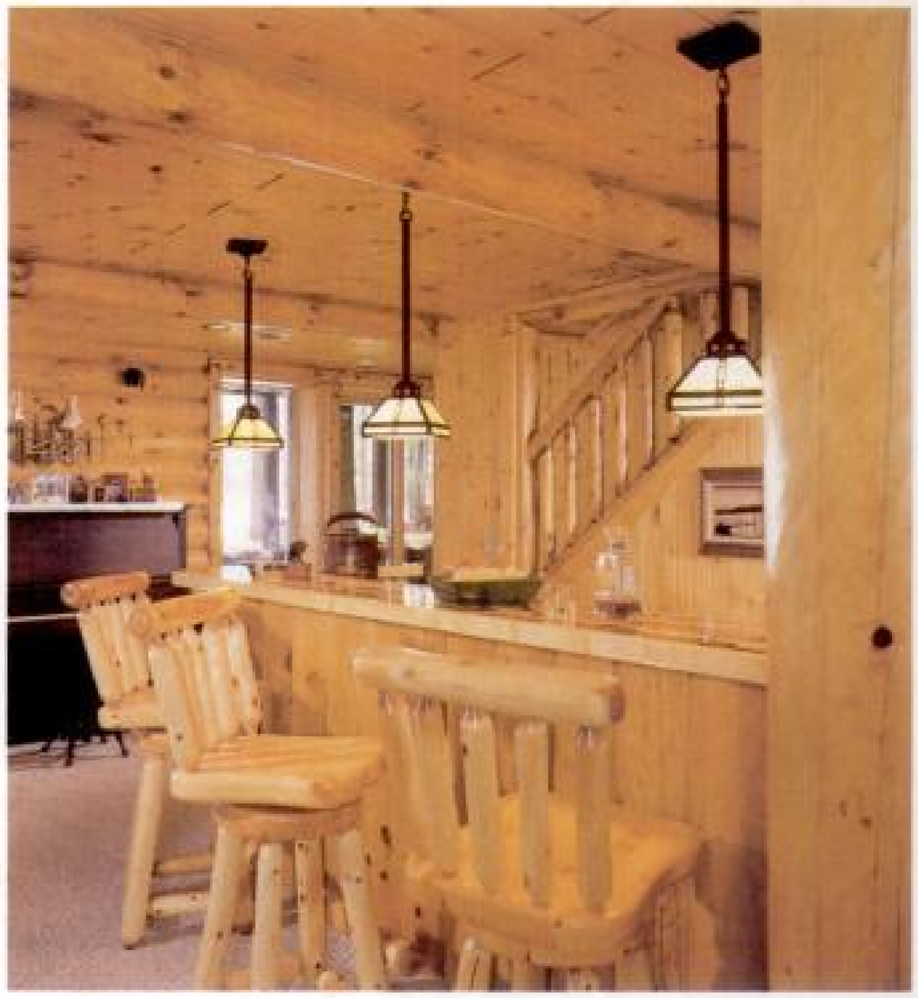

Because the Downhams remodeled a ranch-style house, they couldn't replicate the high ceilings and walls of windows found in many log home great rooms. Instead, their great room (above left) has standard ceilings and windows. "That chalet-type room can feel kind of cold and can get a little noisy," Tom says. "When you come into this room, it has an intimate feel. The decorating, the staining — everything gives it a warm, cozy feeling. It's a place you can sit for hours and relax." The home's lower level is a walkout family room that features a 17-foot bar (above right) that has a scene of Perry Lake burned into the wood.

Downhams knocked out a wall between the master bedroom and a guest bedroom to combine the two. Now, the couple has a four-bedroom, 6,000 square foot home with an open floor plan, a four-season porch with 5' windows looking out over the lake, four full baths, three fireplaces, an indoor pool with a sauna that's connected to the house by a tunnel and an expanded kitchen with a step-down pantry that once was a small screened porch.

"Louise called it her meditation room, but it was actually where she'd go to have a cigarette," Theresa says. "The kitchen was a little small for how big the house is. It was more of a decorative statement than a functional one. Putting in the pantry made it more functional."

Finishing Touches

Along with structural changes, the home also underwent a decorative makeover.

Local artists carved northwoods elements like tree branches, pinecones and cattails into interior dry wall and log walls. Where there was drywall, the walls were faux painted in earthy tones with a pinecone theme throughout the house.

"We discovered two talented young women out of Winter, Wisconsin, who have a very unique technique," Theresa says. "It took them two weeks just to do the upper floor by applying about eight layers of paint. It's like they were sculpting on the walls."

Gables were installed over windows to give the home an authentic log cabin look. A 17' bar with a scene of Perry Lake wood-burned and carved into the top was installed in the downstairs family room.

What's more, the Downhams added a host of modern amenities, like an air-exhange system, in-floor heating, a seven showerhead bath system, hi-definition televisions and surround-sound music systems.

"With an upscale home, you get to the point where you can't compromise," Tom says. "Once you start down that road, you have to be consistent."

One thing he often thinks about, though, is what Louise Saunders would think of the house.

"I always wondered if she'd be happy with it," Tom says. "One of her neighbors said she always wanted a log home."

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The custom log bedroom set (left) in the Downhams' master bedroom is made from 1,000-year-old western red cedar. To make their sleeping quarters bigger, the couple knocked out a wall that separated the original master bedroom from a guest room. Glass doors look out over Perry Lake and for added comfort, the master bedroom has four ceiling fans, including two in the closets and one over the bed. There are a total of 16 ceiling fans in the home.The master bath (below) features a French massage air-tub and a seven-head Kohler waterfall shower. For added warmth, the Downhams installed an in-floor radiant heating system underneath the tile.

SOURCES:

Wilderness Log Homes
N5821 County Rd. S
Plymouth, WI 53073
Phone: 800-707-0449
www.thewildernesscompany.com
www.wildernessloghomes.com

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10631 Hayward Ct.
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: 715-634-3565

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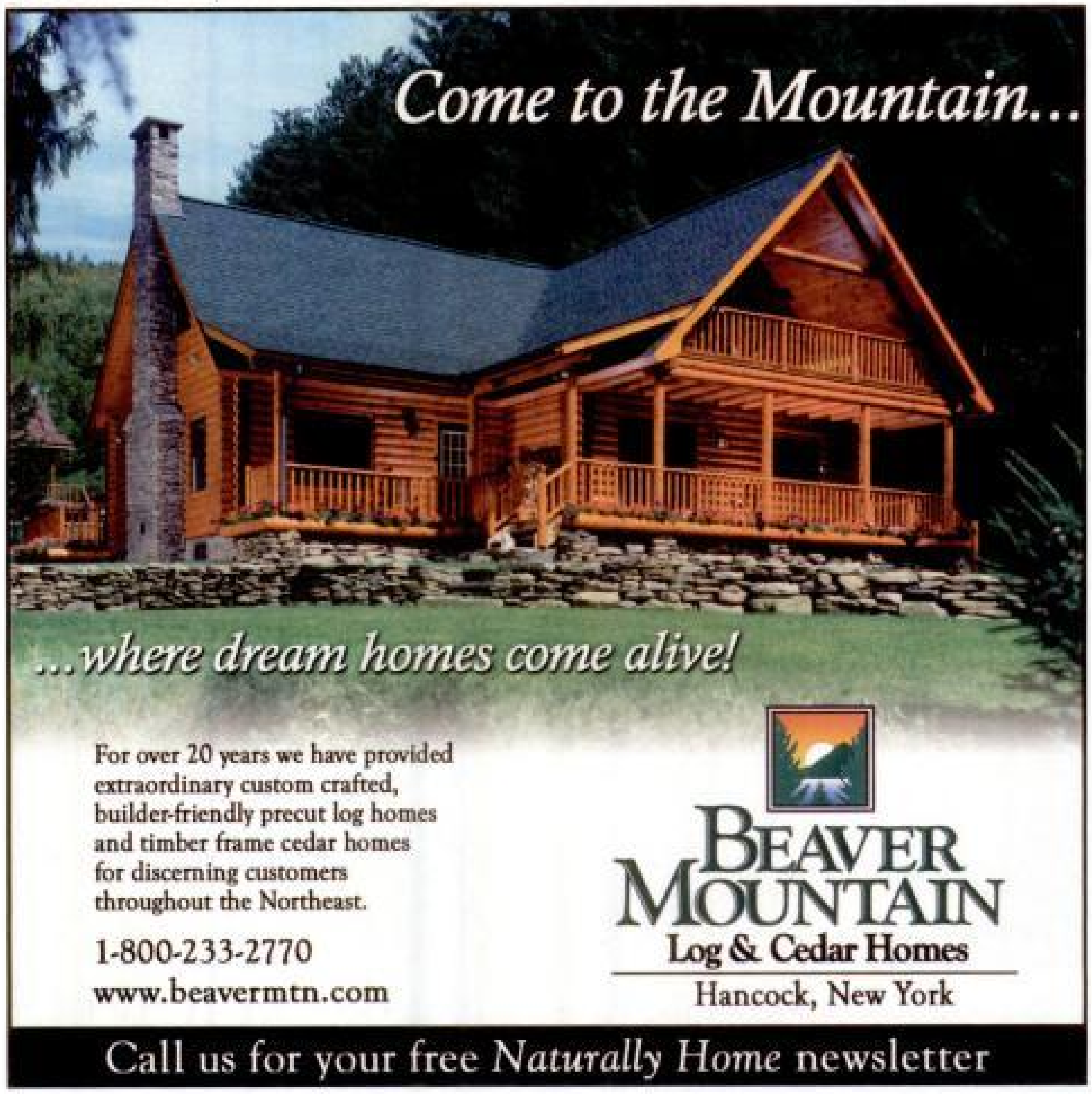

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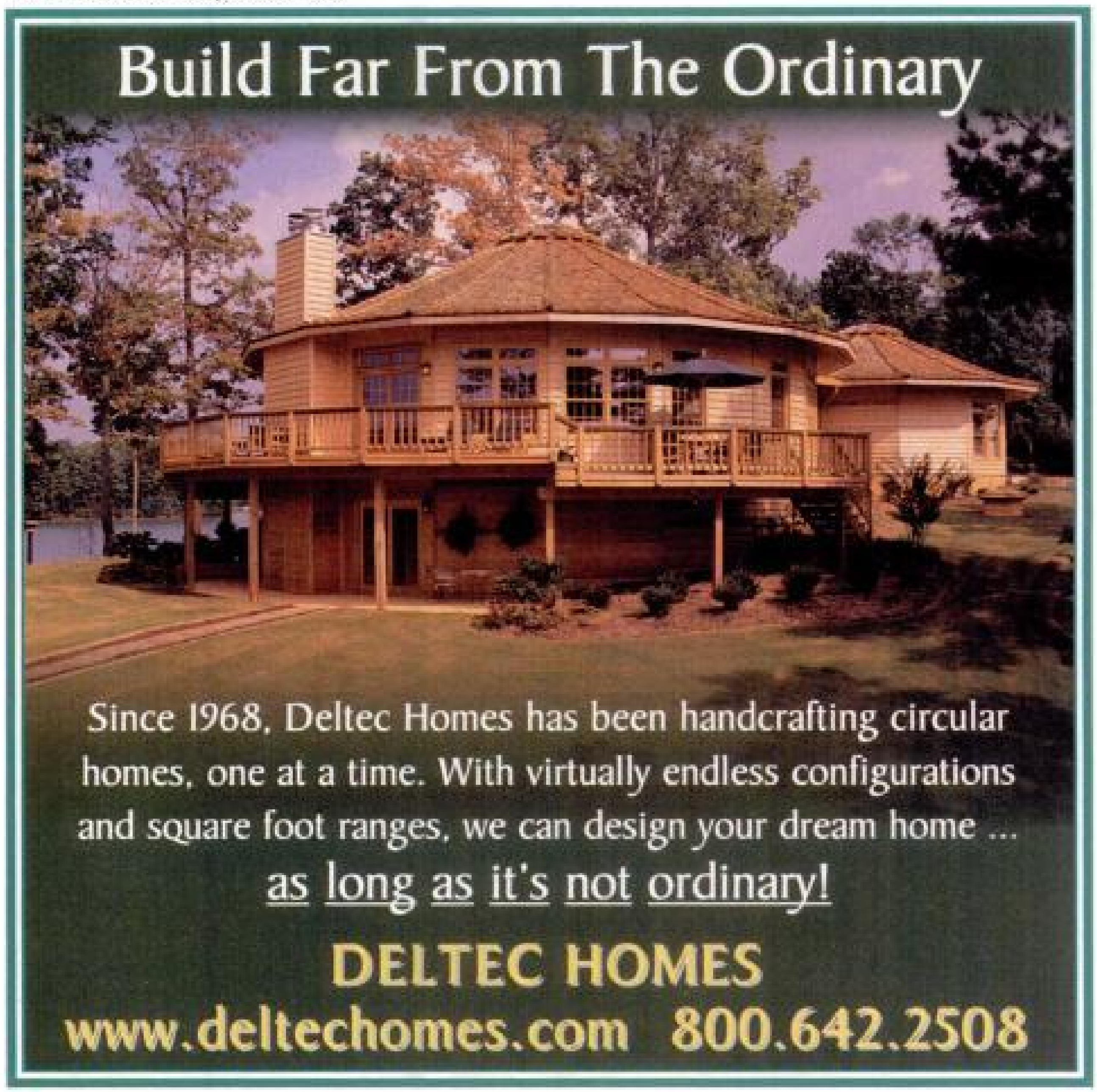

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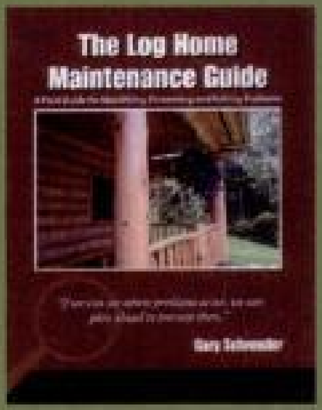

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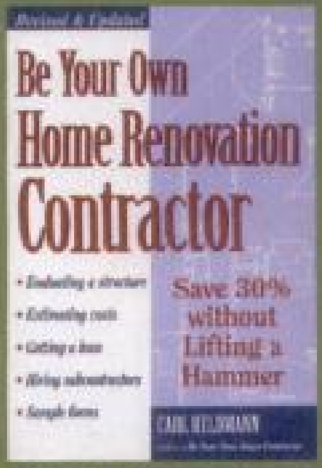

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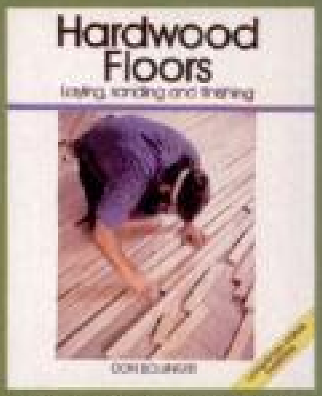

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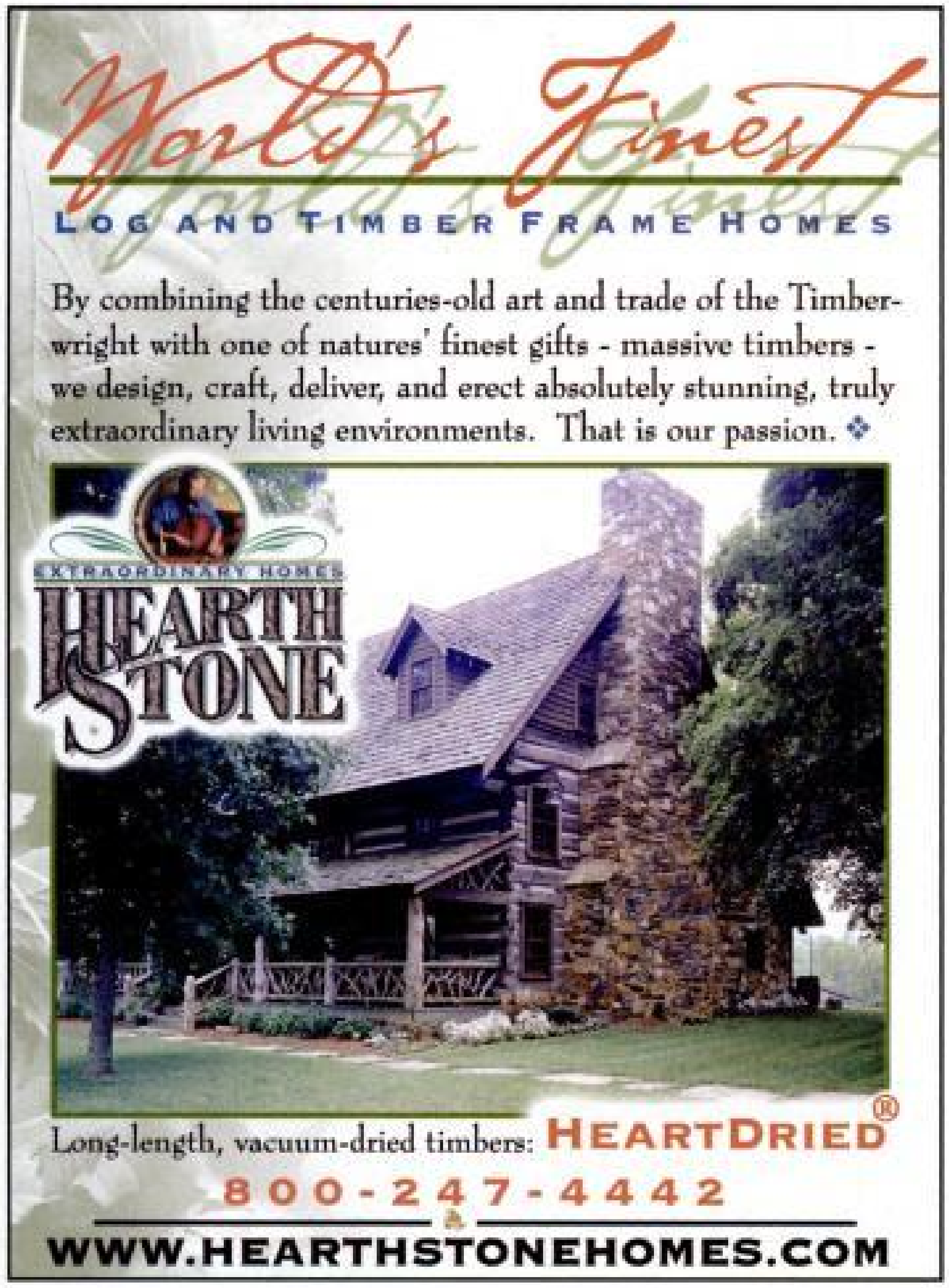

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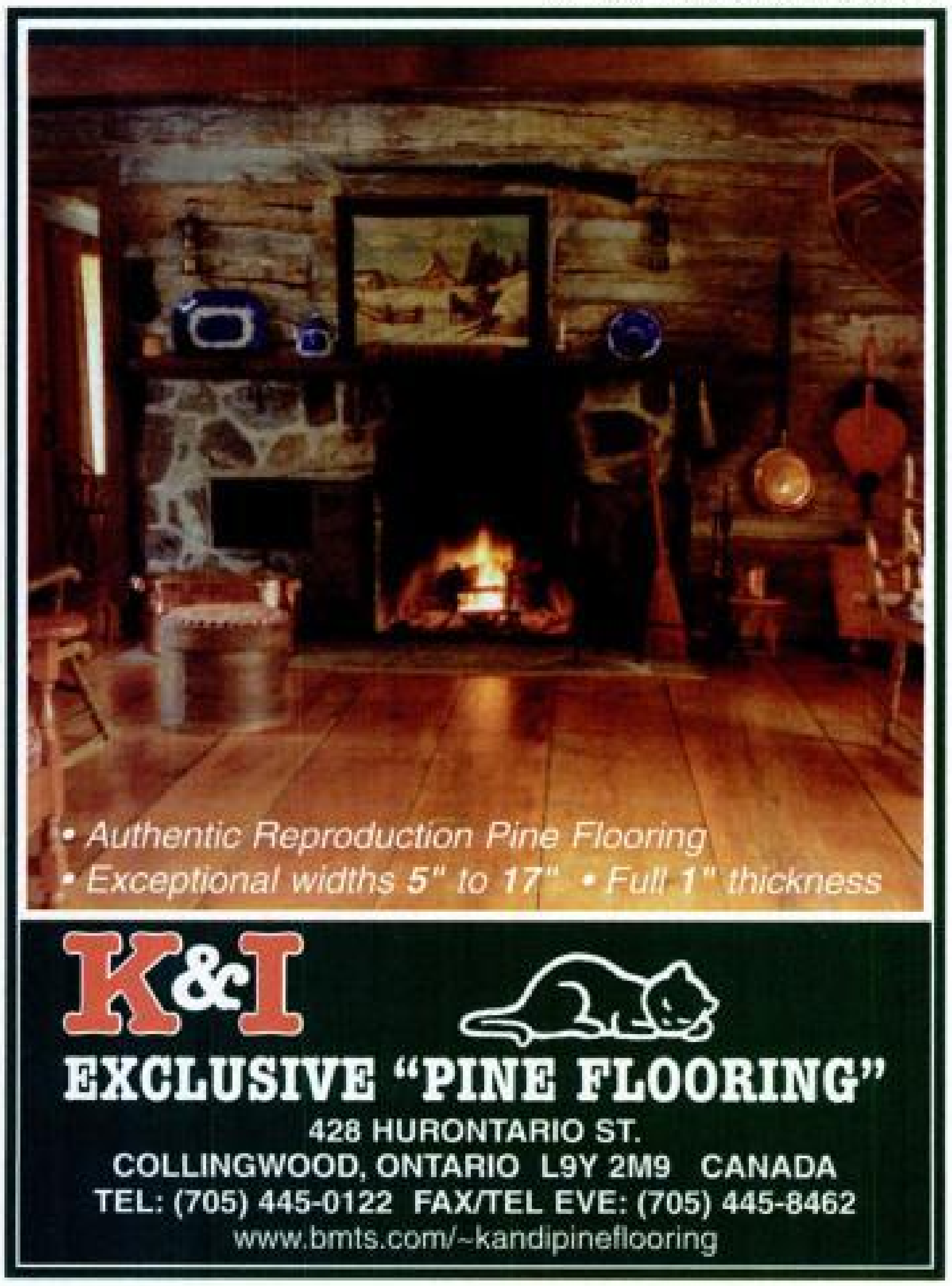

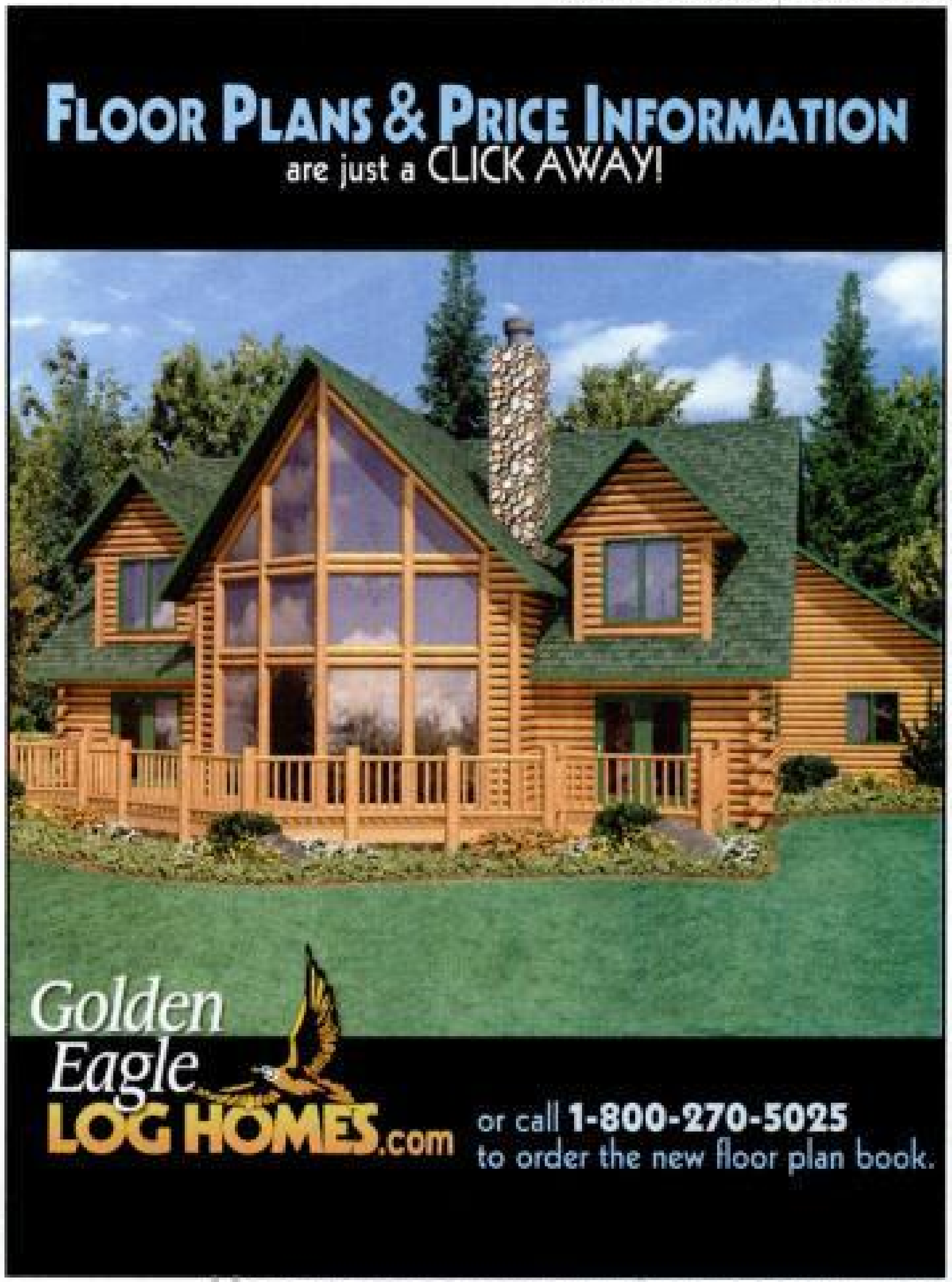

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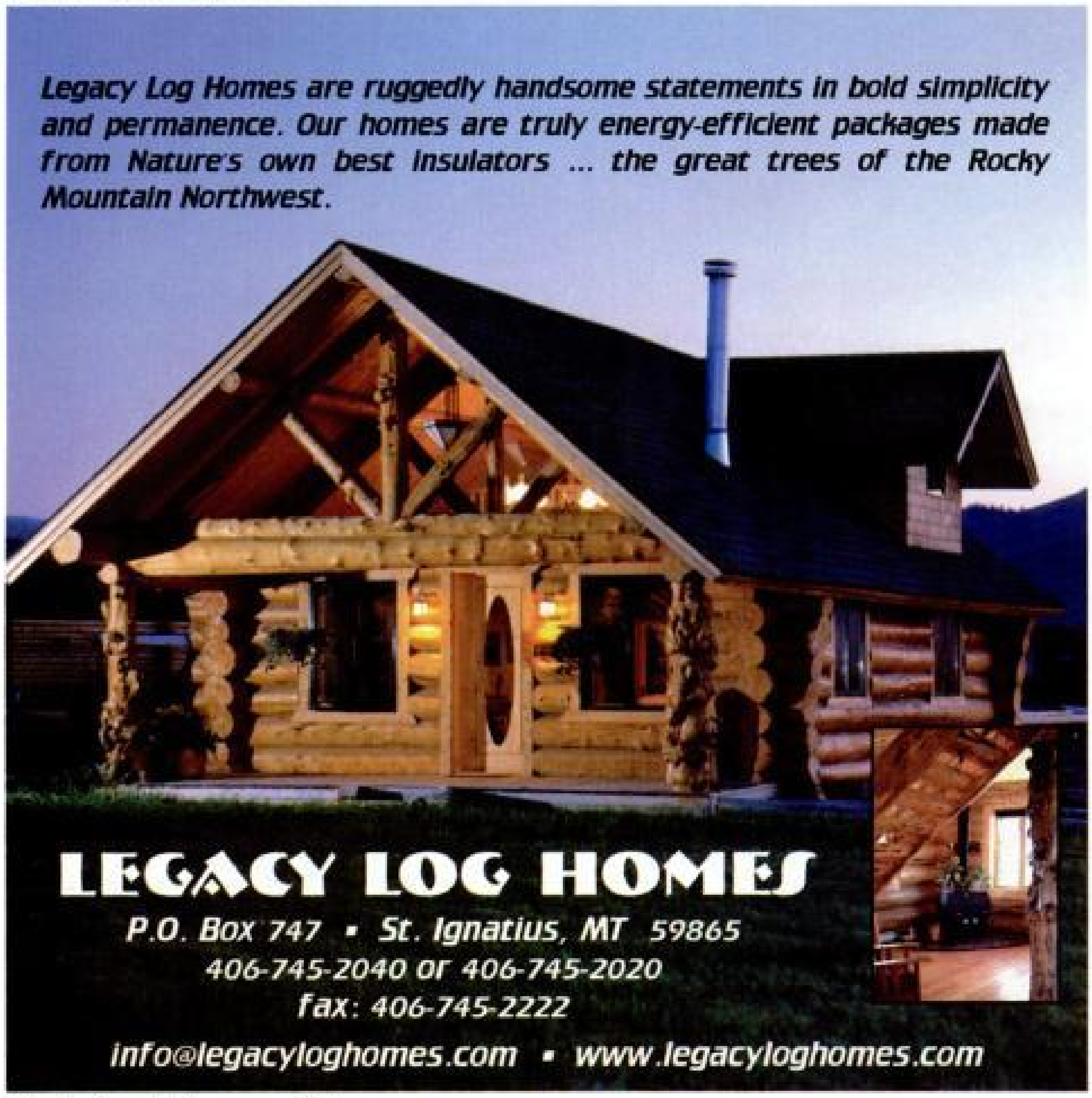

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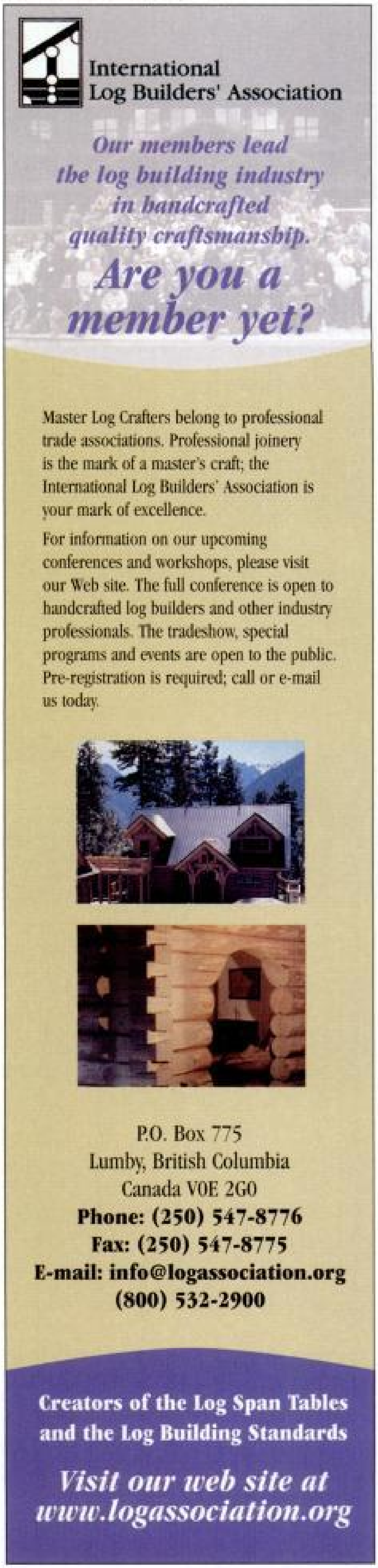

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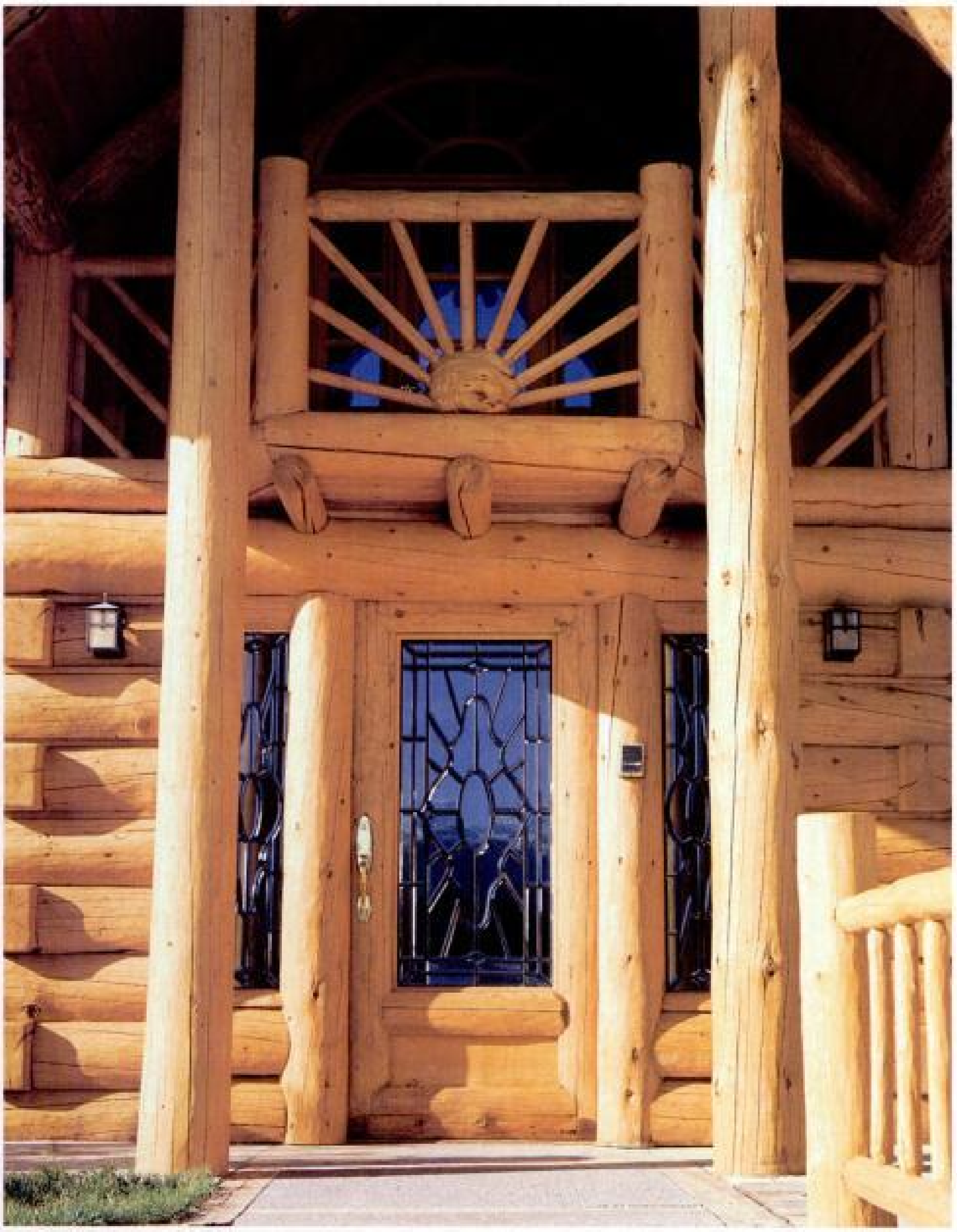
Art of the Home

Furnishings & Accessories For Your Log Home



Profiles by Jay Uhlenbrauck • Photo By Cindy Thiede

First impressions are important and nothing is more impressive than a decorative door that perfectly complements your home. If the doors on your home leave something to be desired, opportunity is knocking. This section is dedicated to craftsmen who take every opportunity to make each door they build a work of art.

grand entrance

decorative doors & door accessories

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ON TAP

furnishings & accessories for your log home

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800-292-0008
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866-438-4766 (866-GET-IRON)
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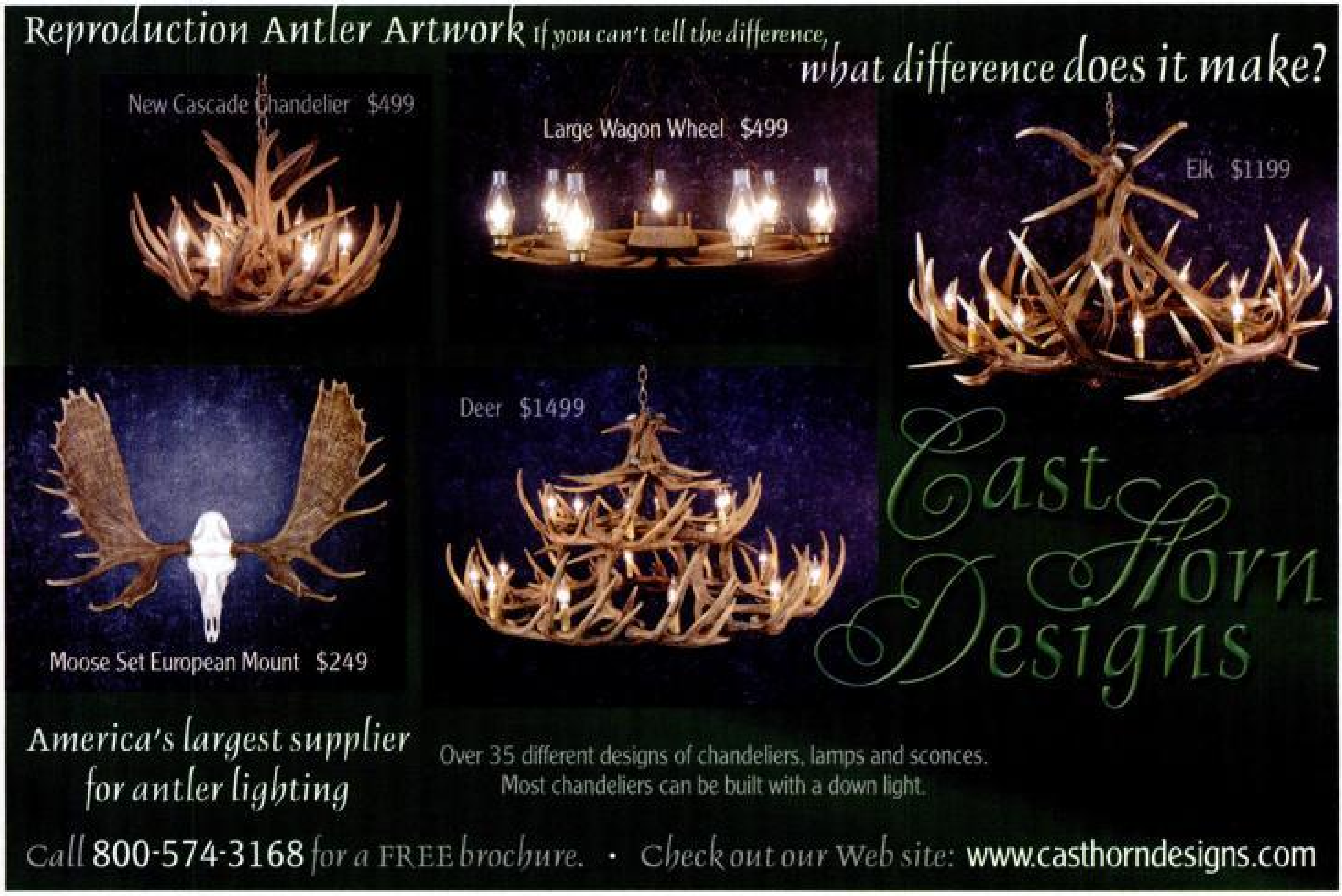

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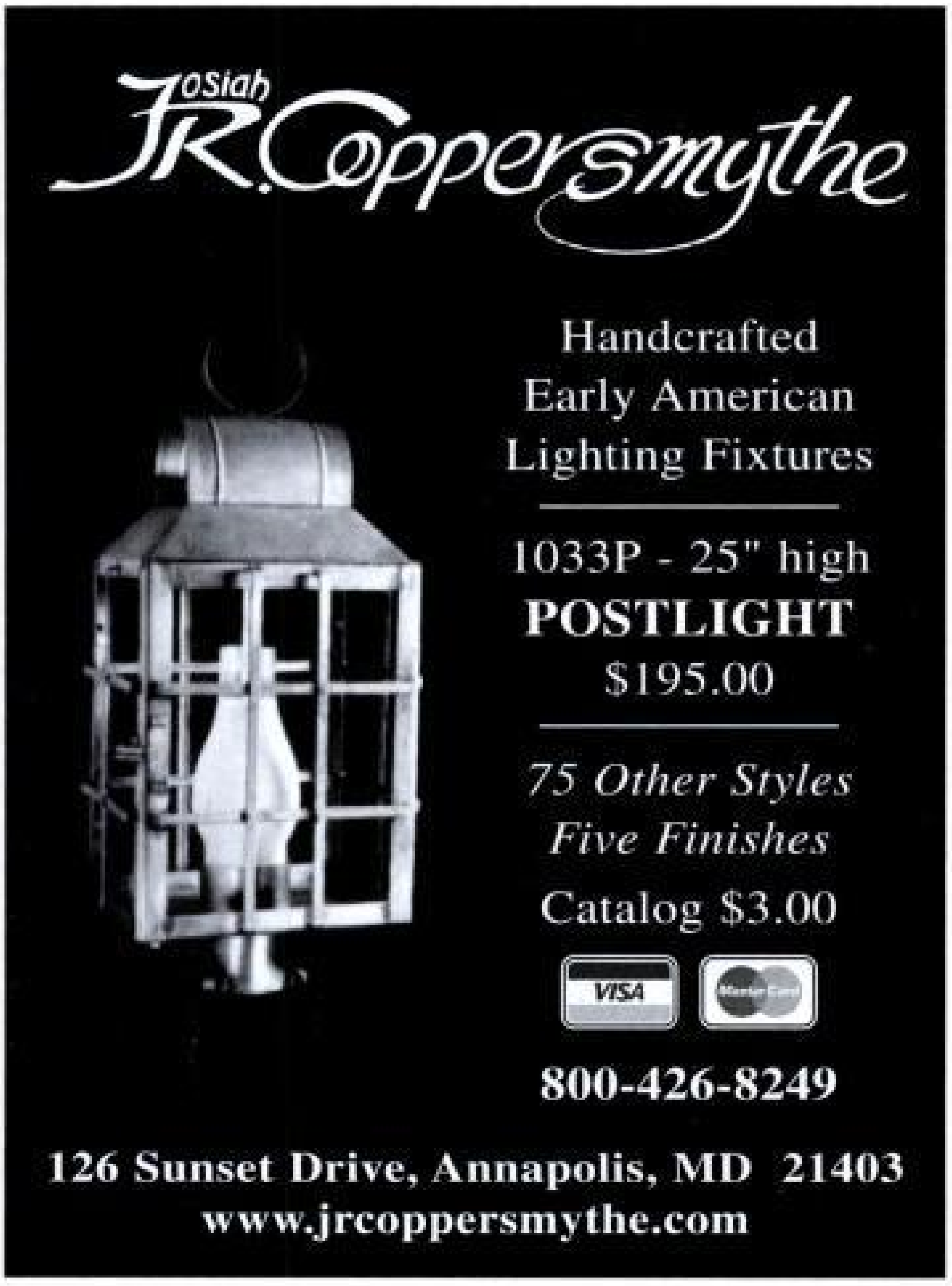

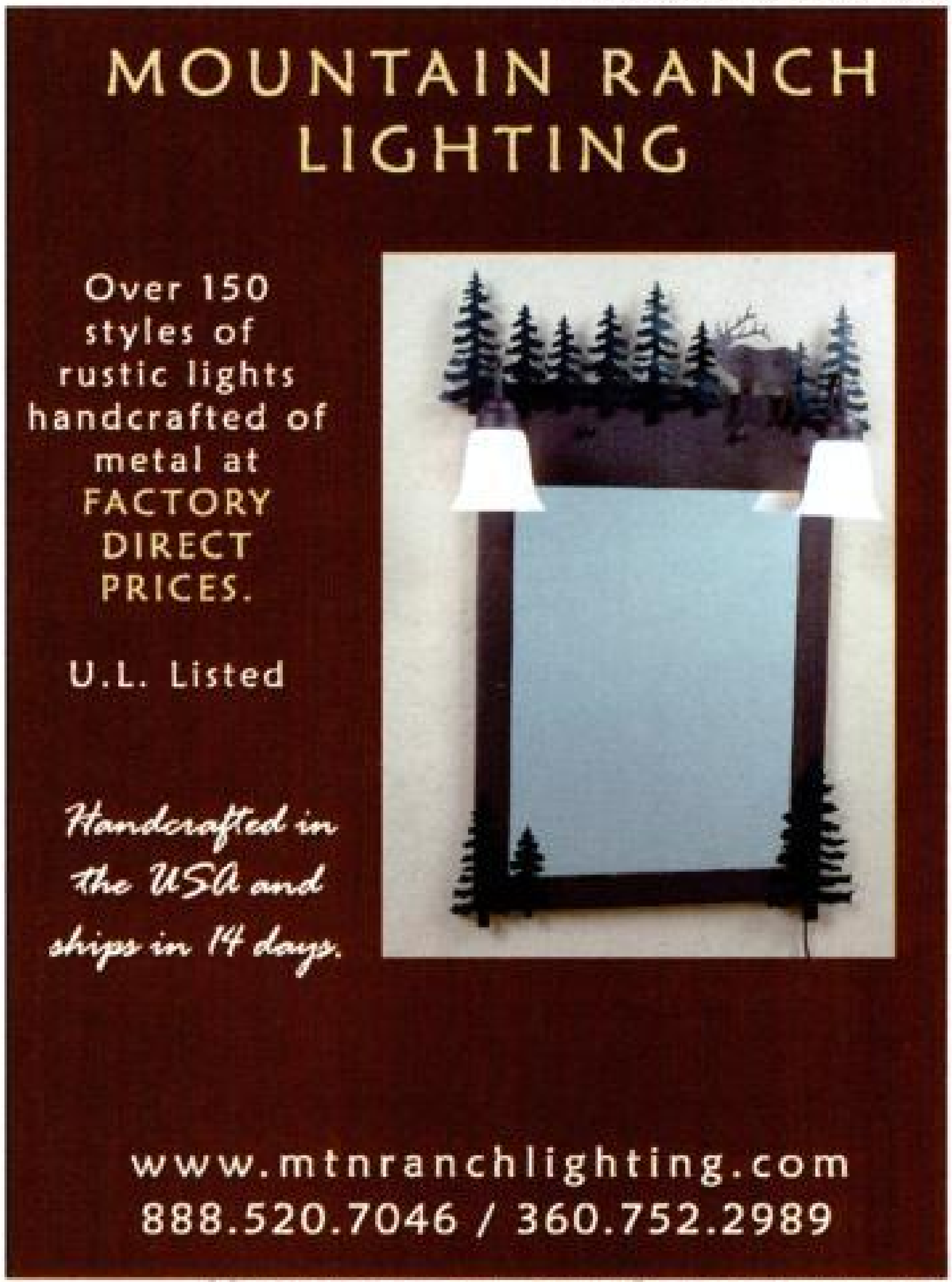

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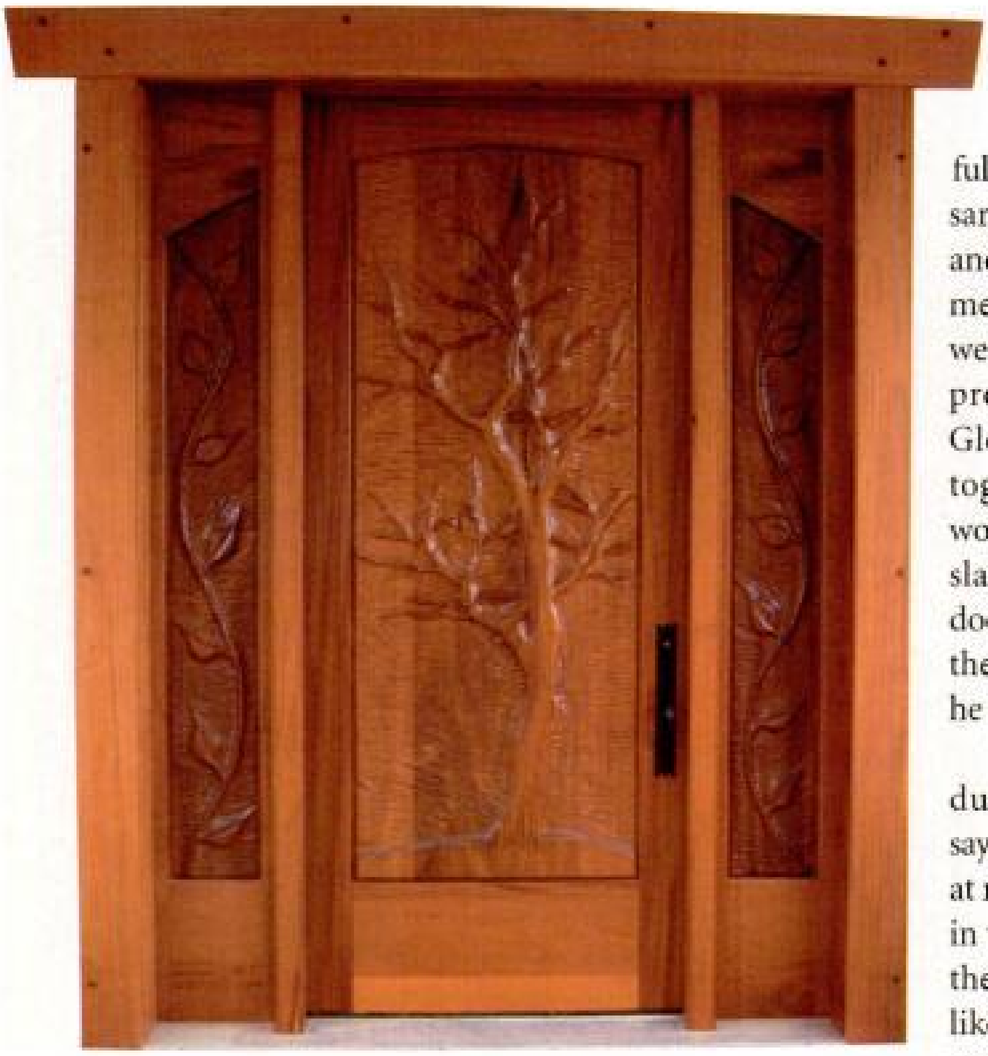
DOOR DÉCOR



If Picasso made doors, they'd probably look like the ones Glenn Miller creates for his company, Aloof Doors. It's a style Glenn has been perfecting since 1996 when a trendy gift shop asked him to create a grand entrance for their store.

"They wanted something really unique," Glenn says. "That was the first elaborate, ornate door I built." The style fit him perfectly and gave him an outlet for artistic expression.

"I'm quiet and reserved," he says, "so I'm always trying to say something with my doors." But Glenn doesn't just express himself through design. Craftsmanship is just as important.

"It's not all about the look," he says. "When you swing one of my doors open you can tell it's a handmade, heavy door."

His art doors feature full-length insulation board sandwiched by wood slabs and topped off with ornamental wood attached with weather-resistant or waterproof glue. This is where Glenn shines as he pieces together native and exotic woods to adorn the wood slabs on either side of the door. It's his favorite part of the process and one where he needs to remain focused.

"I like to be left alone during that part," Glenn says. "I do much of my work at night when no one else is in the shop." And although the trick is to make it look like all these wood pieces came together naturally, there is quite a bit of thought involved.

"I go for balance and proportion," Glenn says. "It can't look like a scrap pile that got thrown together."

Glenn doesn't like to be tied into one door style. He does everything from traditional raised panel doors to elaborate art doors. It's all about fulfilling his clients' needs and understanding not every home needs an extremely decorative door.

"The door has to fit the home," he says. "It should be a focal point that welcomes you in as well as a feature that complements the structure."

Glenn draws inspiration from several artists, but European craftsmen are his greatest influence.

"Hundreds of years ago the first and last priority with any door built was that it would still be around in another 300 years," he says. "We strive to maintain that same integrity."

To contact Glenn Miller at Aloof Doors, call 800-383-5423 or visit www.aloofdoorsandclocks.com.

Glenn Miller uses several wood species for his doors, including oak, spruce, pine, cherry, rosewood, zebra wood and mahogany. The wood is kiln-dried and dry-stacked until it reaches a moisture content below 10 percent. "Once it reaches its equillibrium, it remains pretty stable," Glenn says.

Photos by Neal Keach

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OPENING DOORS

Brian Lee leaves door style decisions in the hands of his clients, but he won't compromise on quality. To indulge his artistic side, Brian builds about 10 doors a year that aren't commissioned pieces. "I do them just to do them," he says. "It's risky because the materials and time I put into them are costly, but it's just something I have to do."

Brian Lee learned a lifetime of lessons working as a budding craftsman in Mendocino, California. There, almost 30 years ago, he helped form a work-for-hire business.

"Along with a few craftsmen in the area we started up the Village Tinkers," Brian says. "We did welding, carpentry, bricklaying, painting, cutting firewood. Our motto was, 'We'll do anything.'"

But his true lessons came at night when he apprenticed as a cabinetmaker.

"I worked for free at night for a couple cabinetmakers," he says. "I really believe in that system of sharing information between people." Even with his busy schedule, Brian found time for side projects.

"A lot of what I learned was trial and error," he says. "People would ask me to do something and I'd learn how to do it. The key at this stage was to not charge people for my mistakes. If something took me four hours that should have only taken two hours, I only charged them for two hours. I never charged people to learn on their time."

Now Brian focuses almost exclusively on custom doors, a medium that allows him to flex his woodworking muscle.

"Sometimes a door just says 'welcome' and sometimes it puffs its chest out."

"I like doors because they usually end up being something special," he says. "They tend to make a statement — sometimes subtle, sometimes ostentatious. Sometimes a door just says 'welcome' and sometimes it puffs its chest out."

No matter the style, Brian's chief concern is quality. He's willing to entertain a client's every whim as long as it doesn't affect the quality of the door.

"I won't build something that is doomed to fail," he says. "I won't build doors with bad mechanical design."

For this reason he doesn't make plank-or slab-style doors that don't allow the wood to shift or move with temperature and humidity changes.

"Wood is responsive to its environment," Brian says. "No matter how stable the wood you use, it absorbs moisture and changes with humidity."

His doors are a frame and panel style that are built to adjust to the wood's natural movement. And every piece of wood that goes into them is hand treated inside and out with four coats of varnish oil that he makes himself.

"It makes it a 100-year door," he says, "and that's what I strive for."

To contact Brian Lee at Mendocino Doors, call 707-964-0635 or visit www.mendocinodoors.com.

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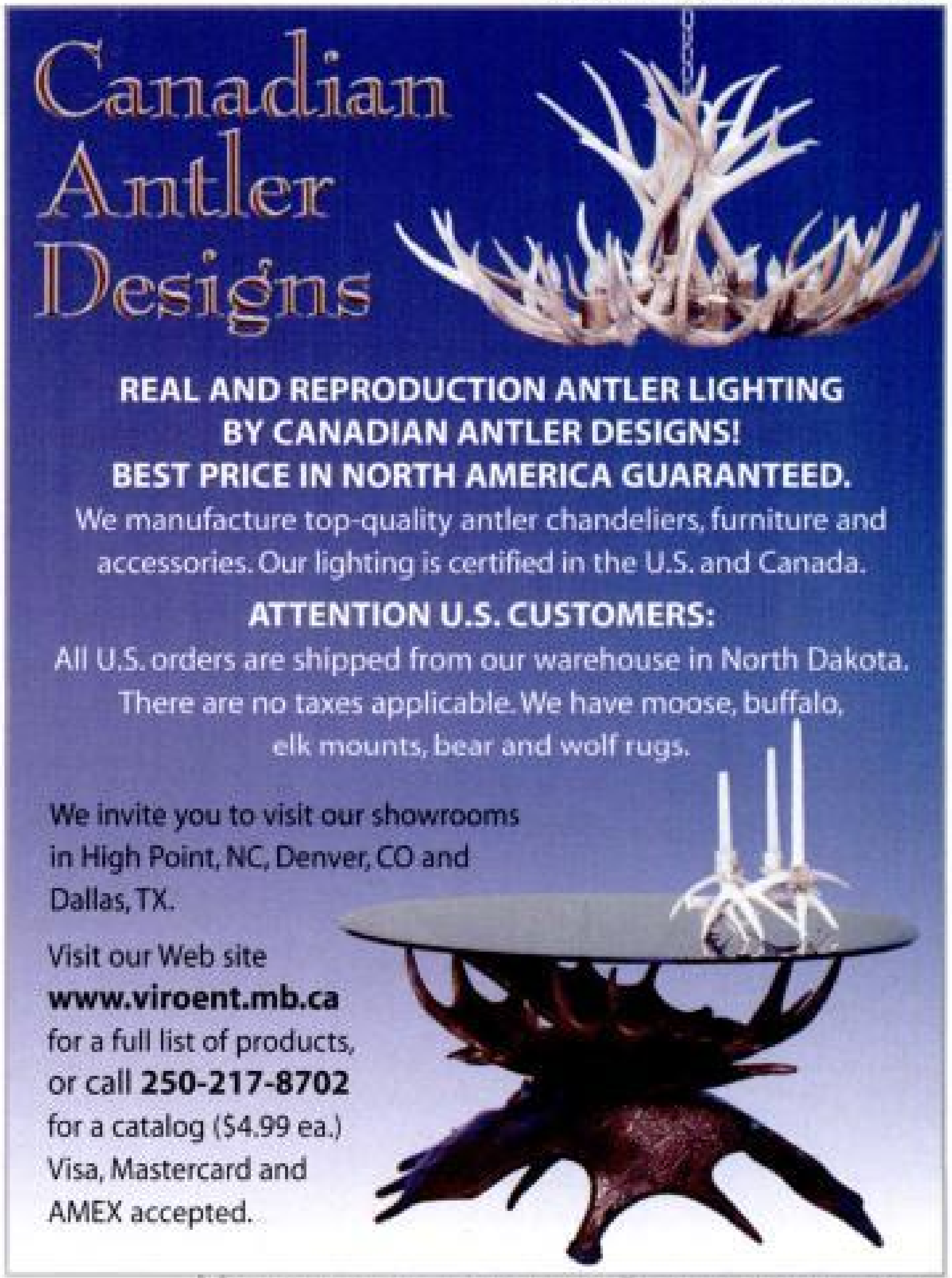

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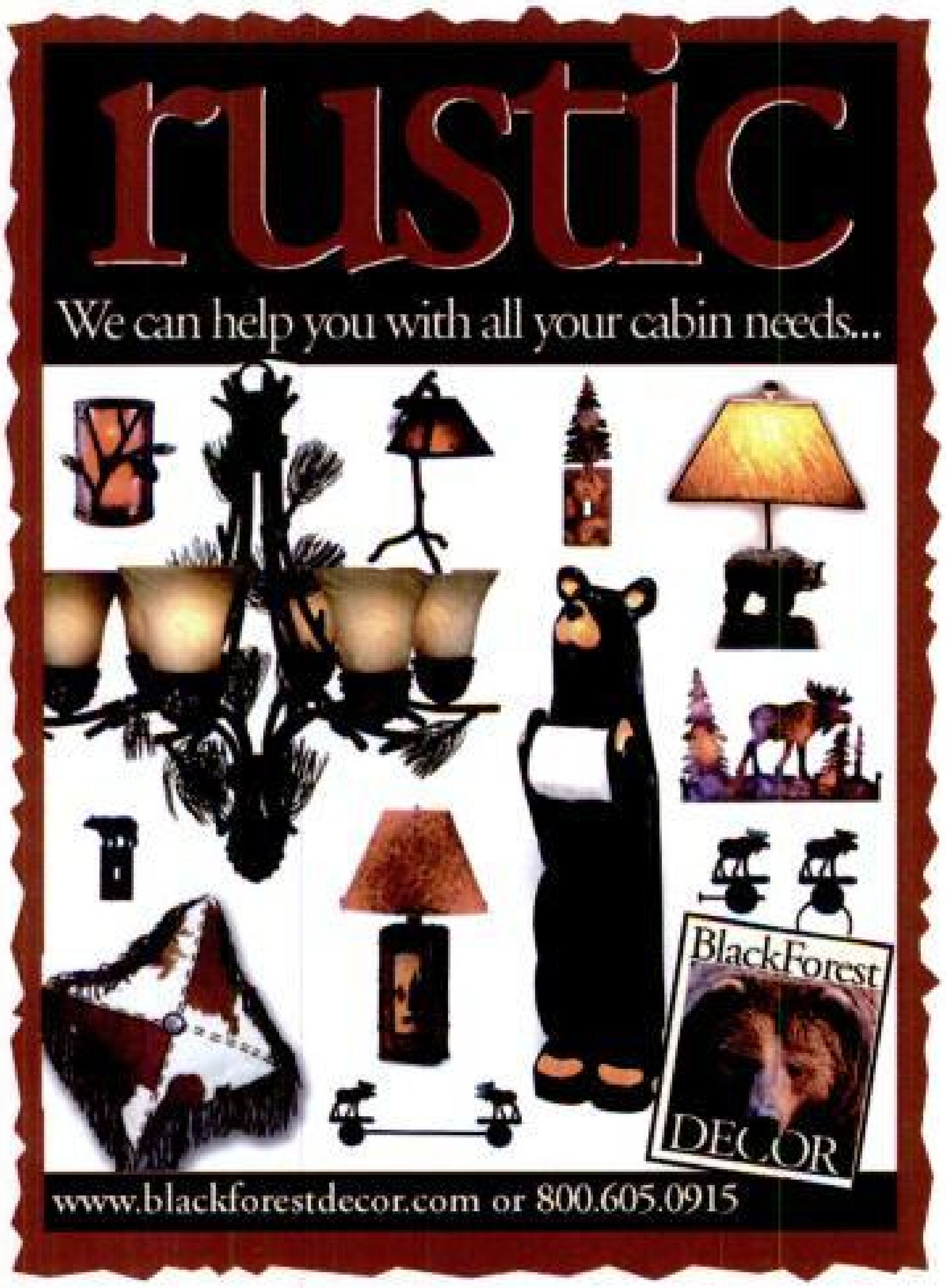

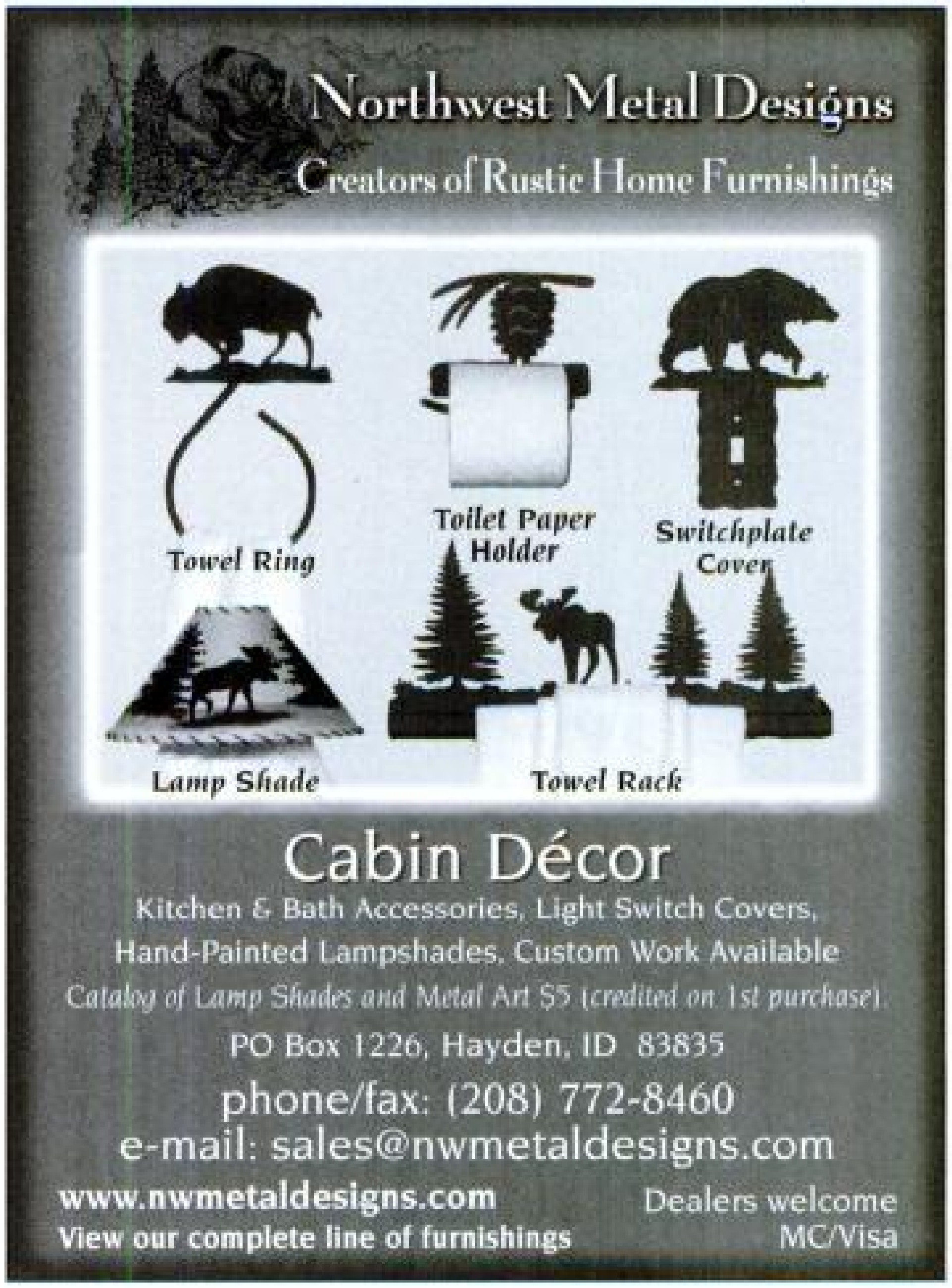

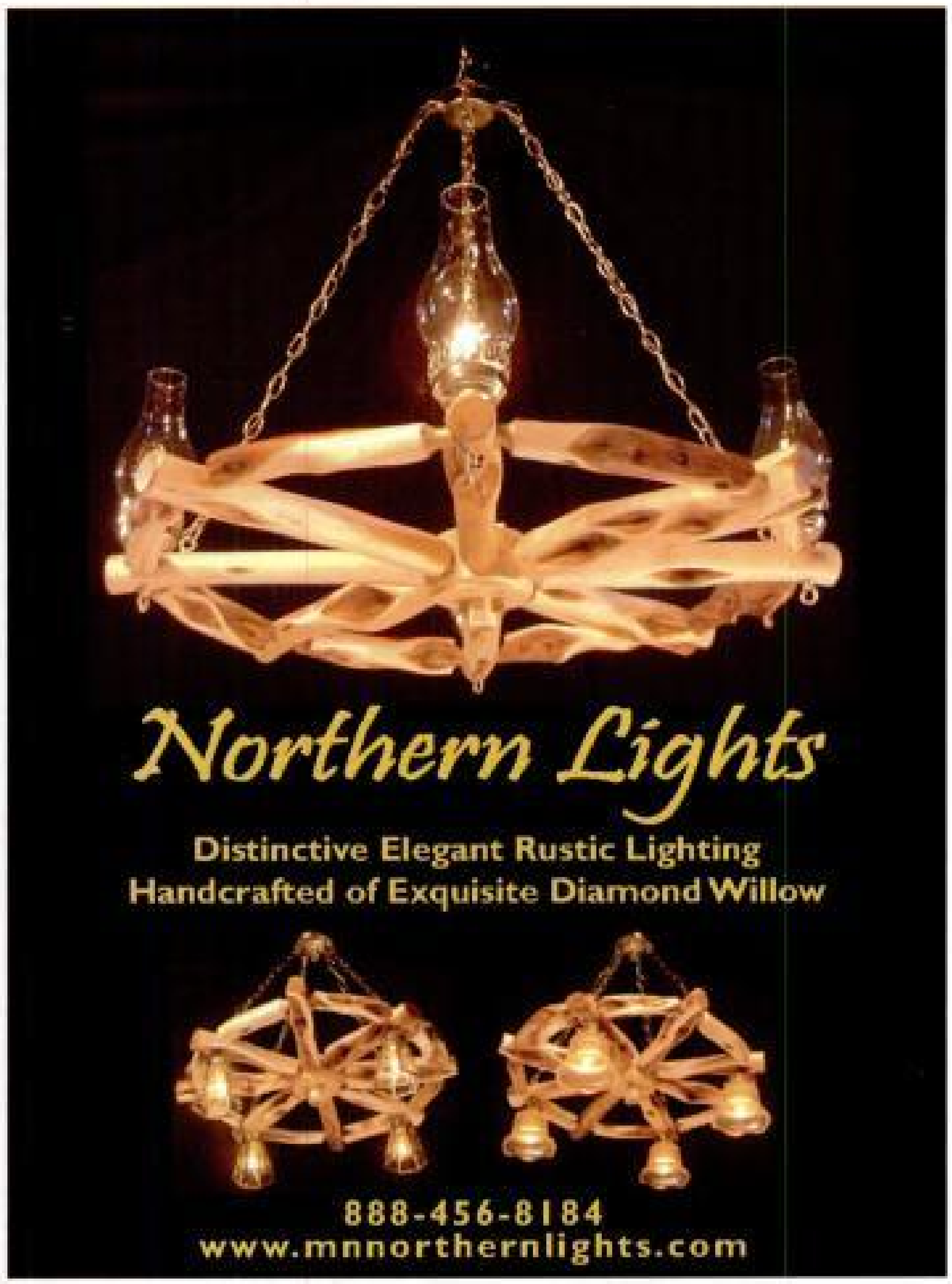

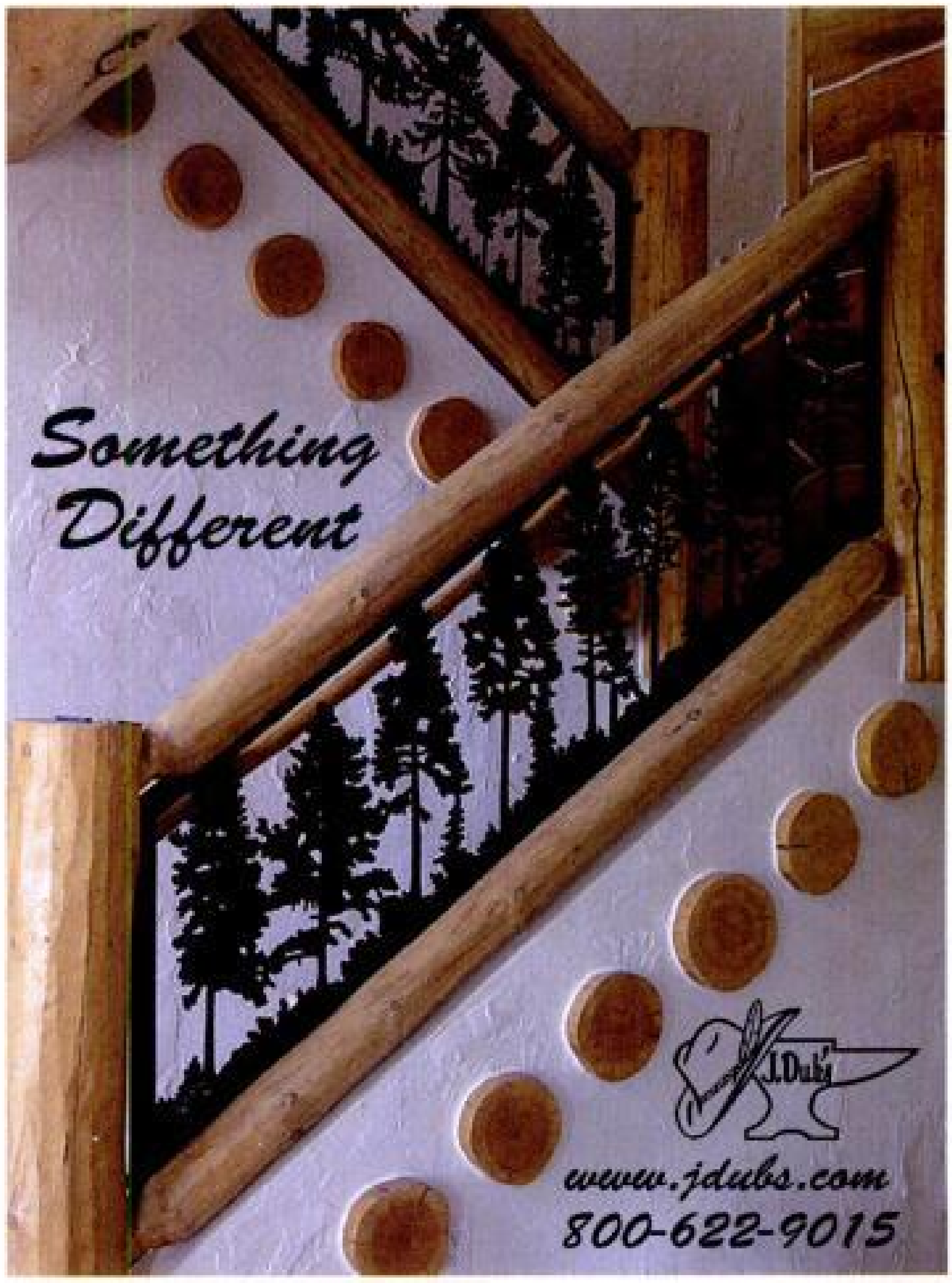

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DESTINED FOR DOORS

Craftsman Jason Perkins wouldn't be where he's at if he hadn't let his customers push him around for a while. He credits them for inspiring the style that has made his doors so popular.

"What I want to do is make the presence of the house known through the entryway."

"My customers have done a lot of the work for me," he says. "I've gained a whole lot more from listening to their needs rather than just doing what I want to do. They've had so many great ideas. I just do my best to meet their needs."

Jason worked as a welder for his father for five years and as a furniture maker for another craftsman for a year before stepping out on his own. It was just a matter of time before he started his own business.

"I always told my dad someday I'll be self-employed," he says. "Everybody I've ever worked for heard me say that at least once. They might not have believed me, but they heard me say it."

The transition to owning his own business might not have been so smooth if he hadn't changed his focus. Jason started out building custom furniture. Then some builders saw his work and asked him to build custom doors. Over the next couple months he built more doors and less furniture. He was happy to make the switch.

"It turned out it was a lot easier to market doors than furniture," Jason says. "I think people are more willing to spend money on something that is part of their house rather than something to furnish their house with."

Jason primarily uses white oak, hickory and African mahogany.

"White oak is the most durable, hickory has a more random grain and African mahogany is more formal," he says. "It all depends on what the client is looking for." No matter what, all his doors are built to last a lifetime.

"Solid construction is very important," Jason says. "The finish may eventually have to be redone, but the construction will hold up forever."

Jason balances wood, iron and glass to create an Old World look.

"The materials all work together," he says. "For example, sometimes I'll use a more opaque glass to stop the eye and emphasize the iron work. It all complements each other."

He describes his doors as bold and bulky and says there's a reason for that.

"What I want to do is make the presence of the house known through the entryway," he says. "I try to make the door set the tone for the rest of the house."

To contact Jason Perkins at Perkins Custom Doors, call 940-825-4321 or visit www.perkinscustomdoors.com.

Jason Perkins builds his doors with solid mortise and tenon joinery. "To me it's more important to have a quality product," Jason says. "What good is something that looks good if it isn't functional?" He finishes all his doors with oil-based stains and a spar urethane that expands and contracts with the wood.

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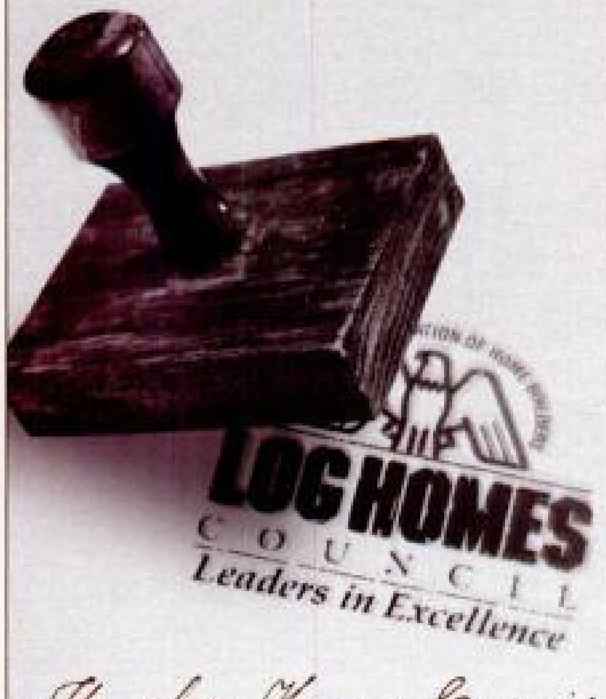

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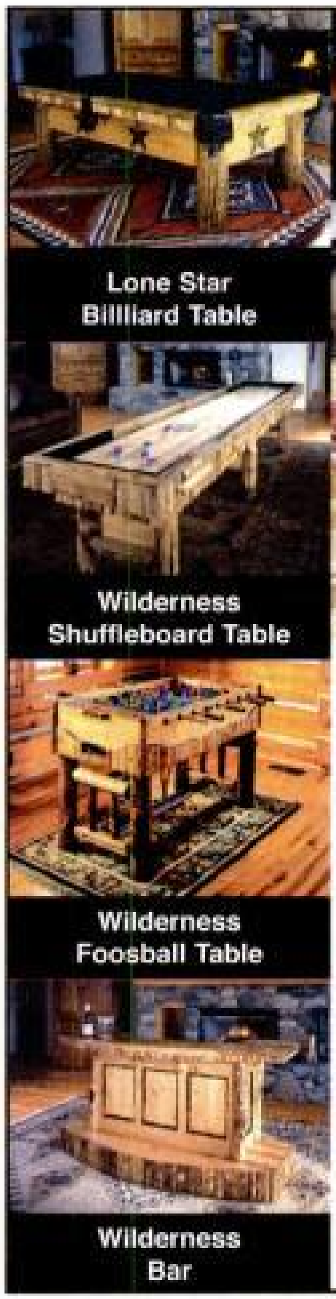

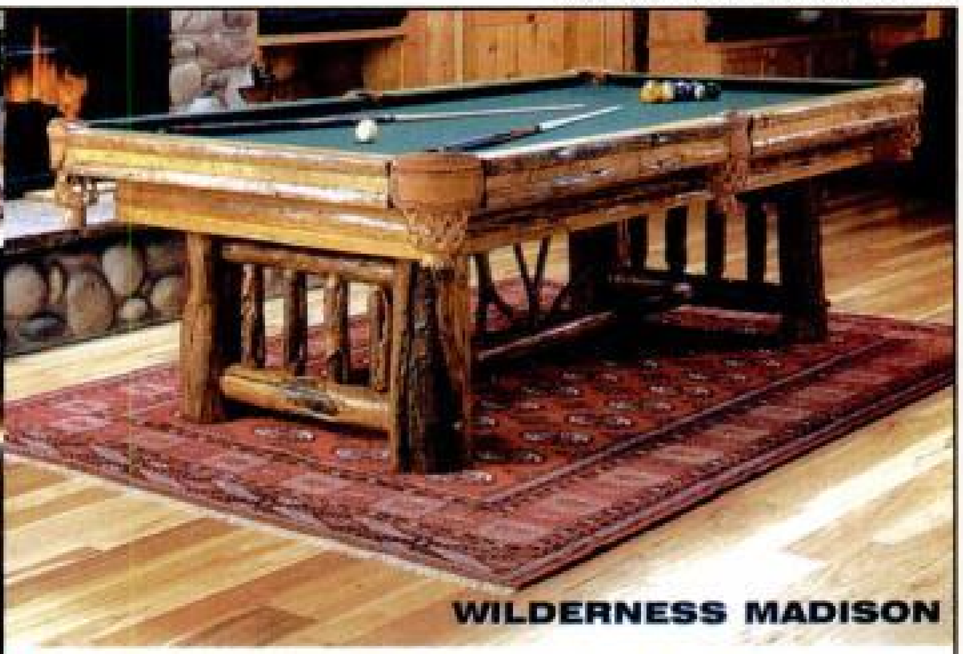

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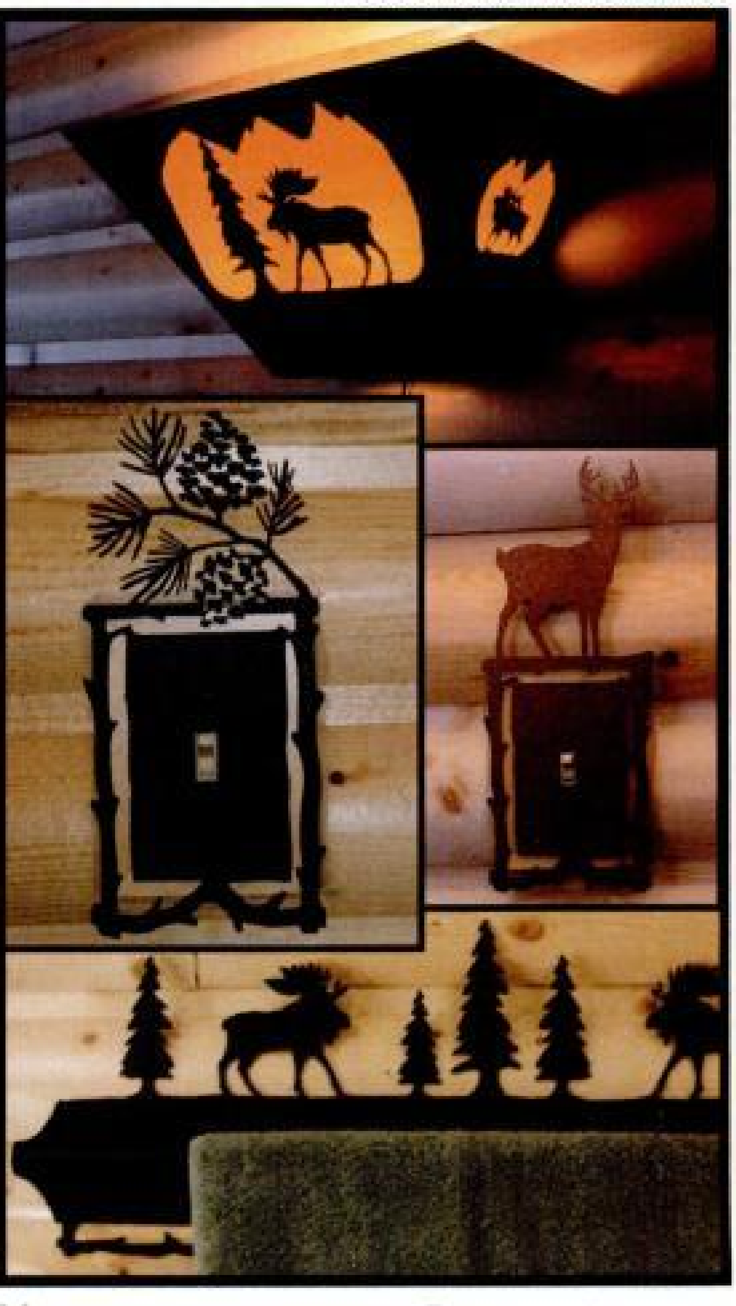


DIFFERENT STROKES

Steve O'Loughlin knows the value of being flexible. Since earning a masters degree in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1988, he's found several ways to market his work and separate himself from the starving artists of the world. He even supported himself as a sketch artist in Australia until he got the boot.

"My business was a little too successful," he says. "Someone called immigration and they threw me out for not having a work permit." He bounced right back, though, and in 1996 found another opportunity to artistically express himself after buying a home in California.

"I started painting my doors, shutters and gates," Steve says. "The door is the first thing you see when you walk up to a house. It seemed natural to me to beautify it." It's a revelation that might not have happened without encouragement from family.

"My brother is a high-end woodworker in Sacramento," Steve says. "He always said I should use wood as a medium." Then Steve got a router for Christmas and there was no turning back.

"I think of doors as a blank canvas that can be used to personally reflect and celebrate a household's tastes."

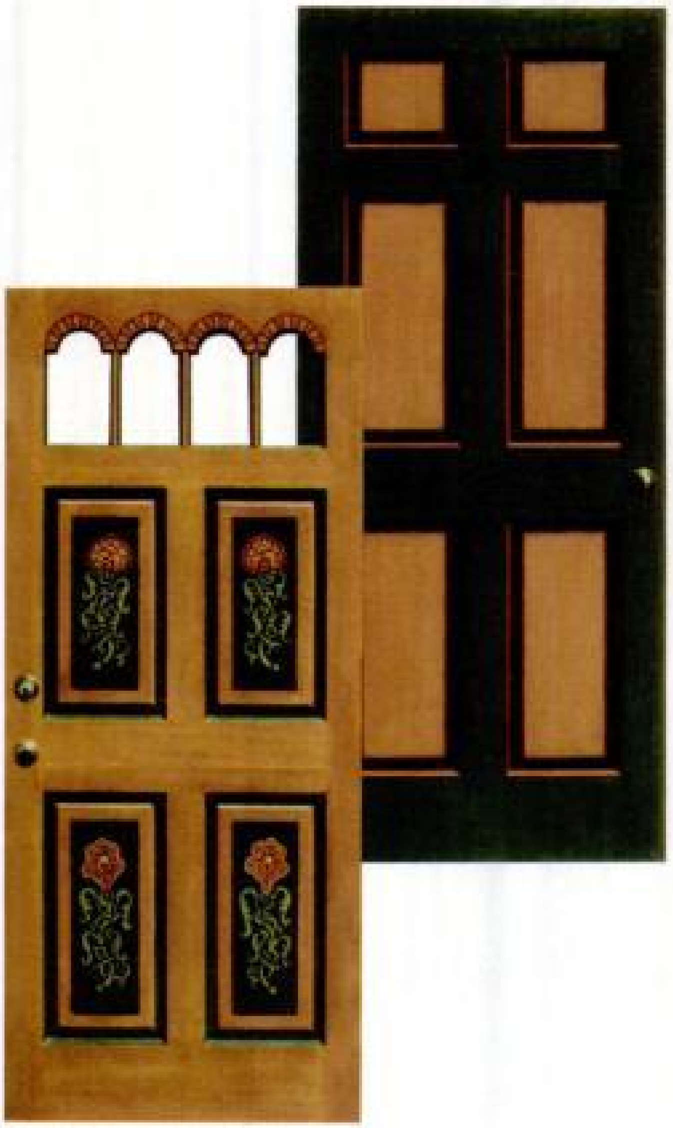
"I took to it like a duck to water," he says. "With all the line work and patterns in my work, the router fit in perfectly. It actually gave depth to my work because instead of just having a black line I could carve the lines into the wood. It gives my art three-dimensionality and makes it more visually exciting." Now Steve paints almost exclusively on wood.

"It started with wall hangings, but now I do a lot of doors," Steve says. "It was just a natural progression. It's a great accent for the home and one that is often neglected."

Steve carves his designs with a router and then paints the entire door black. He uses a belt sander to remove the black on all raised surfaces leaving only the carved portions black. He then paints the door with colorful acrylics and finishes it with an exterior marine-quality seal. He works with each client individually to come up with a design that specifically fits their needs.

"I think of doors as a blank canvas that can be used to personally reflect and celebrate a household's tastes," he says. "It doesn't have to be expressive art, though. The doors I do are usually more decorative than expressive. Either way, it makes an impression and brings a personalized statement to the home."

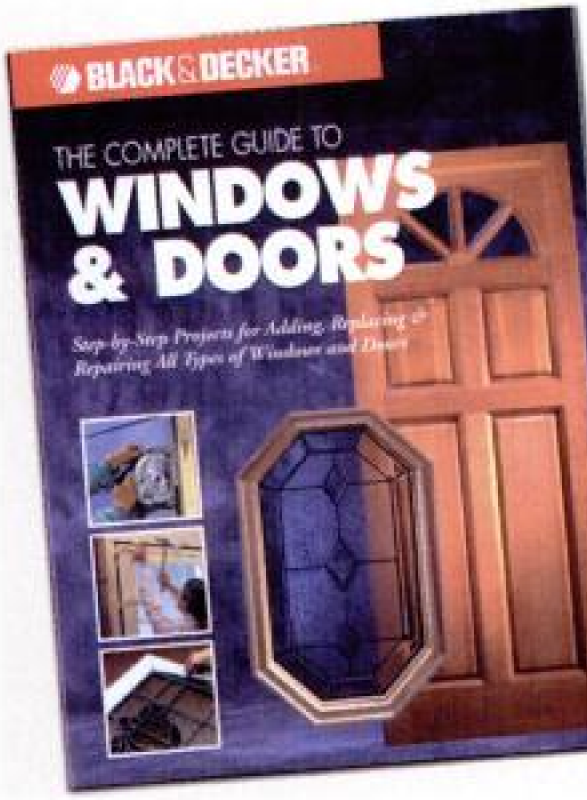
To contact Steve O'Loughlin, call 310-641-6971 or visit www.steveoloughlin.com.



Steve O'Loughlin loves seeing a finished door, but he also enjoys making each one. "If you're going to make art, you better enjoy the process," he says. "Not everything is fun. You have to mix the paint, carve, sand, finish — it's all part of the process." Steve says his secret is to keep the process simple, fun and affordable.

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

COVER TO COVER



The Complete Guide To Windows & Doors
286 pages
Creative Publishing International

If a window or door project is on your "to do" list, don't be caught without Creative Publishing's *The Complete Guide To Windows & Doors*. With more than 900 color photos, the book is a do-it-yourselfer's dream that includes step-by-step projects for adding, replacing and repairing all types of windows and doors.

One of several Black & Decker home improvement books, *Windows & Doors* starts with a guide to help you evaluate your needs. Whether you are a new homeowner or are looking to replace old windows and doors, the book helps you weigh your options and find a solution that will work for your situation.

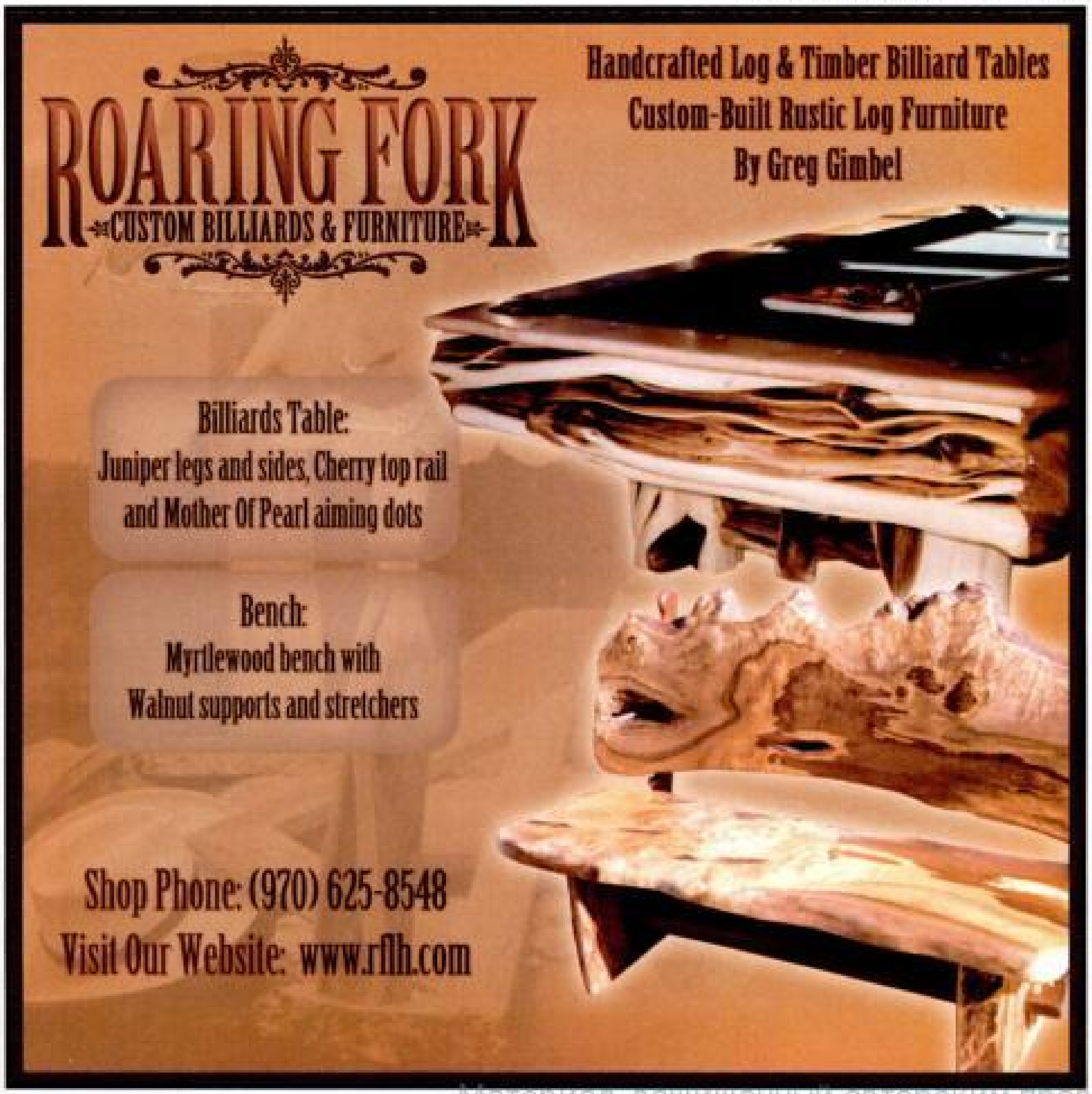
From purchasing the right tools to prepping the site to framing and installation, *The Complete Guide To Windows & Doors* shows and tells you everything you need to know for a successful project.

If you're looking for ideas, this book can be a great source for inspiration. You may end up turning that boring window over your kitchen sink into a garden window. Or you could knock out a wall and open up your home office space with some stylish French doors.

The Complete Guide To Windows & Doors also includes finishing options, weatherizing tips and advice on how to select and install hardware, while an extensive glossary helps get you up to speed on the lingo. If you are a student of do-it-yourself projects, this is your textbook for all things windows and doors.

To contact Creative Publishing International, call 800-328-0590 or visit www.creativepub.com.

∇ Circle Reader Response #278



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∇ Circle Reader Response #107

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Isle of Wight: September 11; October 9; November 13; Heritage Log Homes of Southeast Virginia. 757-242-6570.
Louisa: September 18-19; October 16-17; November 13-14; Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Inc. 540-967-3668.
Unionville: September 12, 26; October 10; November 7, 21; Heritage Log Homes of Northeastern Virginia. 540-854-4926.
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Clarksburg: September 25; 12-5 p.m.; Real Log Homes. 800-980-LOGS(5647).
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Elkhorn: October 9; call for appointment; Treefield Log Homes; authorized representative of Heritage Log Homes. 262-903-8764.
Lake Geneva: September 11; October 9; November 13; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Golden Eagle Log Homes. 262-249-8686.
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Mosinee: September 26; October 24; November 21; 12-6 p.m.; The Wilderness Co. 888-353-2363.
Neenah: Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; Pinecraft Log Homes, Inc. 800-729-6132.
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Wautoma: Call for appointment; Wisconsin Log Homes. 920-379-2544.
Wisconsin Rapids: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Golden Eagle Log Homes. 800-270-5025.

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Fort Atkinson: September 11; call for appointment; Heritage Log Homes. 262-903-8764.
Whitewater: November 6; call for appointment; Treefield Log Homes; authorized representative of Heritage Log Homes. 262-903-8764.

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Wisconsin Rapids: September 10-13, 26; October 30; call for times; Golden Eagle Log Homes. 800-270-5025.

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Centennial: September 11-12, 25-26; October 2-3. 23; November 6-7, 20; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Centennial Builders, LLC, authorized representative of Real Log Homes. 303-435-0076.

CANADA

OPEN HOUSES

Ste. Marie Salome, Quebec: September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24; November 7, 14, 21, 28; Kuhns Bros. Log Homes. 450-839-1182.

∇ Circle Reader Response #115

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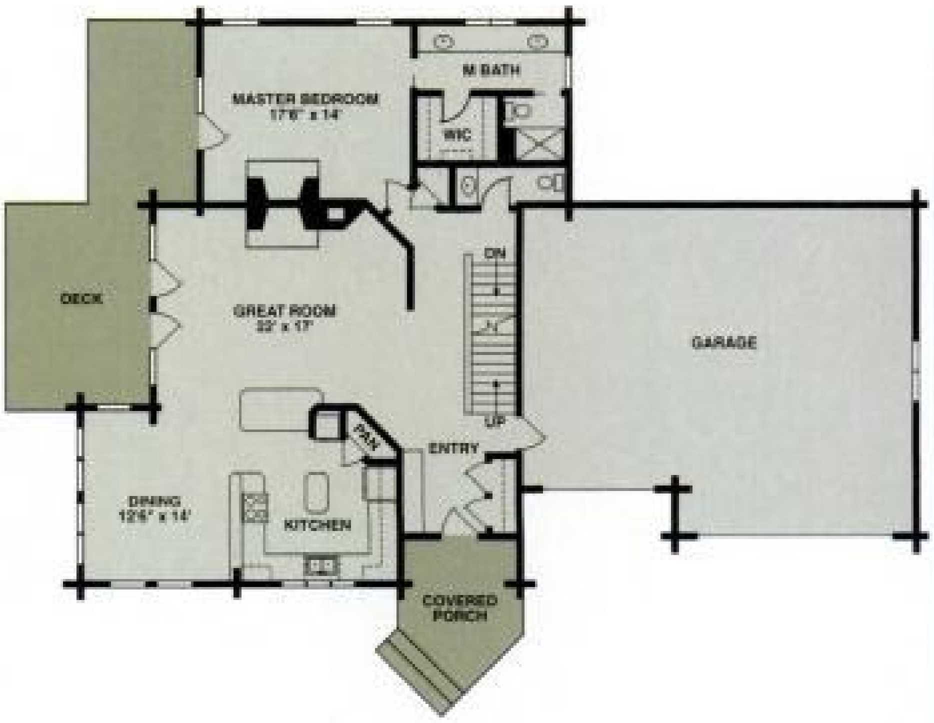
Материал, защищенный авторским правом

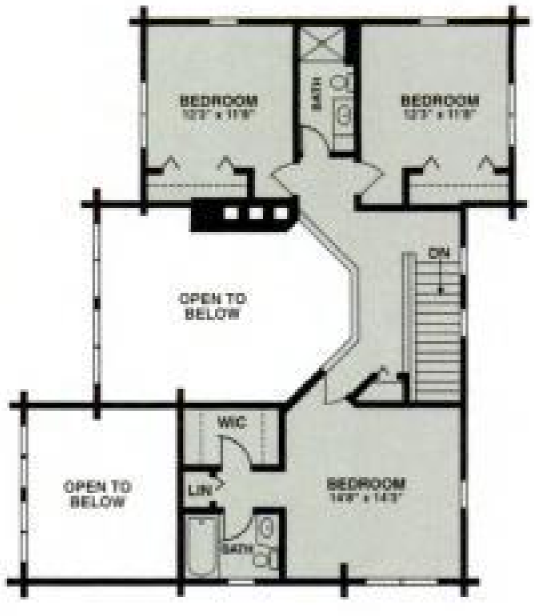
BOISEAN

First Floor: 1,607 sq. ft. Second Floor: 1,020 sq. ft.
Total Area: 2,627 sq. ft.

The Boisean was designed to take advantage of spectacular views. The great room is the centerpiece of the home, with its log trusses and full-height stone fireplace. Stairs from the entry lead to the loft, which looks out two stories of windows. Three bedrooms are on this level, one of which is a second master suite. Vaulted ceilings contribute to the open feeling in this floor plan. Precision Craft specializes in custom designs and can modify this or any plan.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

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Circle Reader Response #40

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

The Tahoe floorplan takes advantage of panoramic views through its classic glass prow and open cathedral ceilings. Experience the open feeling of the kitchen, dining and great room areas and enjoy the covered porches. All three spacious bedrooms offer walk-in closets and private baths. Upstairs, the open loft is filled with light from the glass prow. Precision Craft specializes in custom design and can modify this or any plan.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

Capture sensational views through the floor-to-ceiling windows in the prow of the Yellowstone floor plan. The covered porch entry leads into open living and dining areas with the kitchen and nook areas off to the side. Two bedrooms and a bath are situated in the back of the house and the master bedroom suite is tucked away upstairs. Additional storage space is also located upstairs. Precision Craft specializes in custom design and can modify this or any plan.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

TAHOE

First Floor: 1,658 sq. ft. Second Floor: 1,153 sq. ft.
Total Area: 2,811 sq. ft.

YELLOWSTONE

First Floor: 1,216 sq. ft. Second Floor: 265 sq. ft.
Total Area: 1,481 sq. ft.

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Circle Reader Response #40

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

GOLDEN VALLEY

Total Area: 3,941 sq. ft.
Call for package prices.

Imagine warm summer evenings on the deck that spans the length of this home or relaxing in front of the fireplace on a fall evening in the large great room or master suite, both with cathedral ceilings. Add the loft with an excellent view to the outdoors through the circle-top windows. The breakfast room has a door to the deck and the den off the master suite offers the ultimate in privacy. Two bedrooms and a full bath on the second floor round out this spectacular home.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

ROBINDALE

Total Area: 3,544 sq. ft.
Call for package prices.

Warm. Welcoming. If that describes what you've been thinking of, the Robindale is ready to welcome you home. The covered front porch is just waiting for twilight conversations. Inside, you are greeted by the large great room with fireplace and dining area, with views into the sunroom. The gourmet kitchen includes a breakfast nook with fireplace for cozy casual dining. Two bedrooms and a bath are on the first floor, with the master suite on the second. The bonus room over the garage gets plenty of light through circle-top windows. Clutter is corralled in the mudroom near the garage.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

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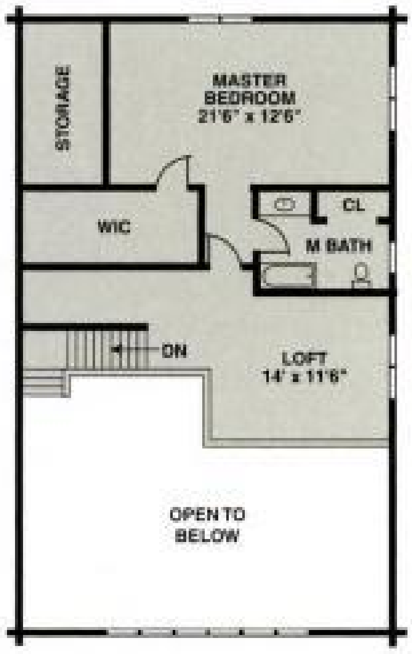
Circle Reader Response #85

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

The Mountain View offers 2,184 square feet of living space. It has three bedrooms plus a loft and two baths. A lovely glass package brings an abundance of light with a cathedral ceiling. The generous living area opens onto a spacious deck. Your family will love all this home has to offer. Our complete package includes sub-floor, pre-cut kiln-dried log walls, Andersen windows, Therma-Tru doors, loft system, complete roof system, interior frame and T&G pine to finish, solid wood interior doors, lockset and much more. Call to ask about our shipping special.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Total Area: 2,184 sq. ft.

Log Wall Package: $41,245 Shell Package: $71,365

Complete Package: $90,585

The Cheyenne model is 2,454 square feet and has three bedrooms plus a loft, two baths and an attached two-car garage. This home offers large square footage at an affordable price, including open living space with a porch and deck for outdoor entertaining. The glass package adds light and warmth to this lovely model. Our complete package includes sub-floor, pre-cut kiln-dried log walls, Andersen windows, Therma-Tru doors, loft system, complete roof system, interior frame and T&G pine to finish, solid wood interior doors, lockset and much more. Call to ask about our shipping special.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

CHEYENNE

Total Area: 2,454 sq. ft.

Log Wall Package: $49,770 Shell Package: $77,835

Complete Package: $94,210

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Circle Reader Response #129

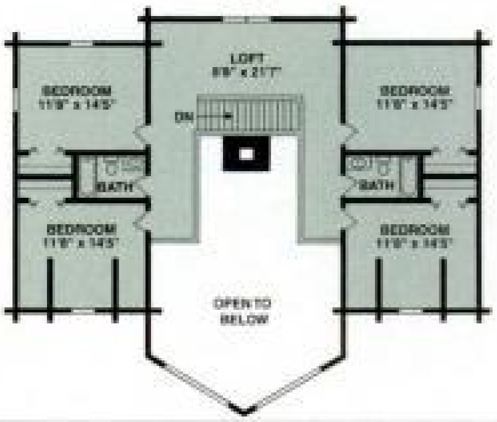
Материал защищенный авторским правом

BLACKHAWK

First Floor: 1,818 sq. ft. Second Floor: 1,290 sq. ft.
Total Area: 3,108 sq. ft.

The Blackhawk design presents an open and spacious floor plan. It features interior log walls with arches in the great room, while the log post and prow front produces a dramatic effect. The Blackhawk design also has an attached three-car garage.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

LAKEWOOD

First Floor: 1,723 sq. ft. Second Floor: 225 sq. ft.
Total Area: 1,948 sq. ft.

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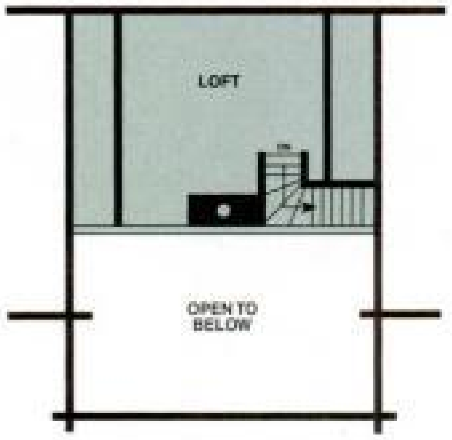
Circle Reader Response #219

Grace, charm and practicality are the trademarks of the Lakewood model by Lodge Logs. The central living area is ideal for entertaining guests. Bedrooms are isolated on the wings for privacy. The central fireplace is a natural divider that doesn't interfere with the sense of openness. This design is extremely flexible — easily adapted to any family's needs.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

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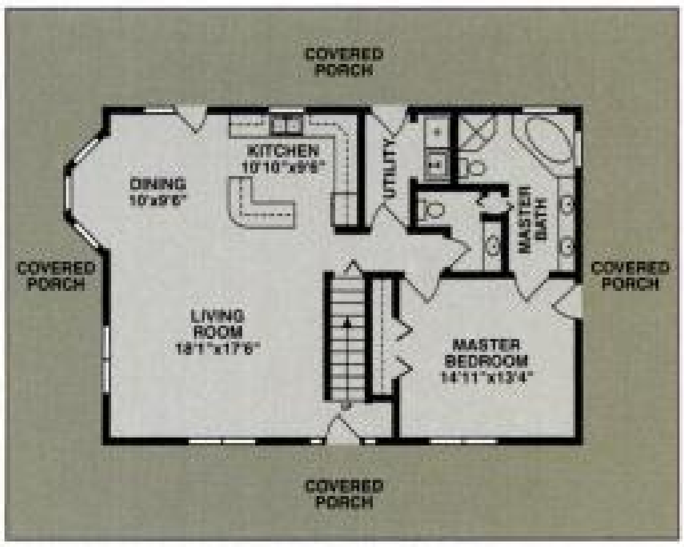
Featuring wraparound porches and oversized dormers, the Boone House is the quintessential log cabin. You will fall in love with its spacious rooms and dramatic ceilings as you bask in its relaxing atmosphere. Perfect for the wooded lot or the open plains, inquire about making the Boone House "Your House" today!



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

BOONE HOUSE

First Floor: 1,139 sq. ft. Second Floor: 722 sq. ft.

Total Area: 1,861 sq. ft.

$90,608

Have that lake front property, and looking for the perfect home? Look no further! The Lake Front features roominess with a view. The dramatic great room with its exposed beams and floor to ceiling glass will allow you to capture views of your dreams. Call Battle Creek Log Homes about this home and start the experience!

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

LAKE FRONT

First Floor: 1,296 sq. ft. Second Floor: 599 sq. ft.

Total Area: 1,895 sq. ft.

$77,803

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Circle Reader Response #186

Материал, защищенный авторским правом

KAMP KRUEGER

Total Area: 4,223 sq. ft.
Garage: 780 sq. ft.

A complex log roof framing system creates interest from every exterior angle of this home. The interior offers diversity with its small cozy nooks and large spacious areas. A sunroom and a conservatory allow sunlight to flow through from one end to the other. Maple Island specializes in complete log shell packages, including not only exterior walls and interior walls, but also second floor joists, interior gable walls, gable ends, log trusses and roof framing systems.

FIRST FLOOR

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SECOND FLOOR

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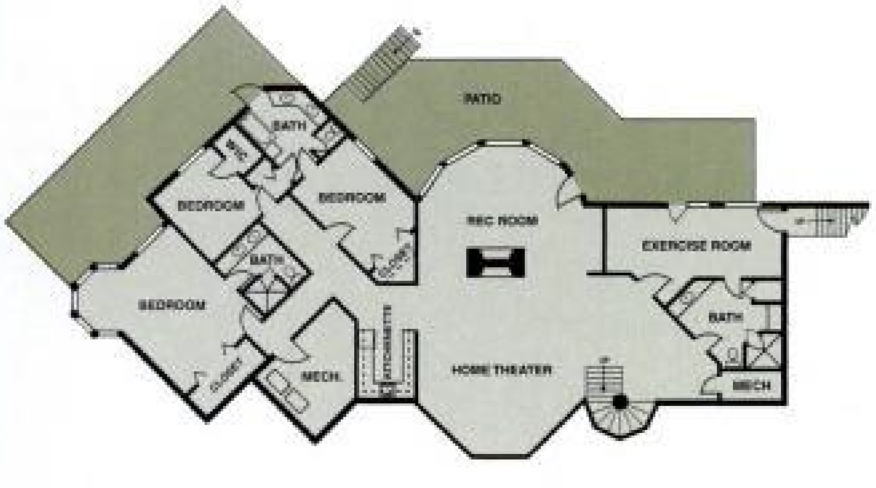
BIG CREEK

Total Area: 7,300 sq. ft.

This distinctive log home combines American tradition with contemporary design. The main floor includes a great room, spacious kitchen and spiral staircase. An 800 square foot master suite features a bath and a nearby hot tub room. Laundry facilities are between the kitchen and three-car garage. The lower level includes guest quarters with three bedrooms and three bathrooms, as well as a large entertainment room.

SECOND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR



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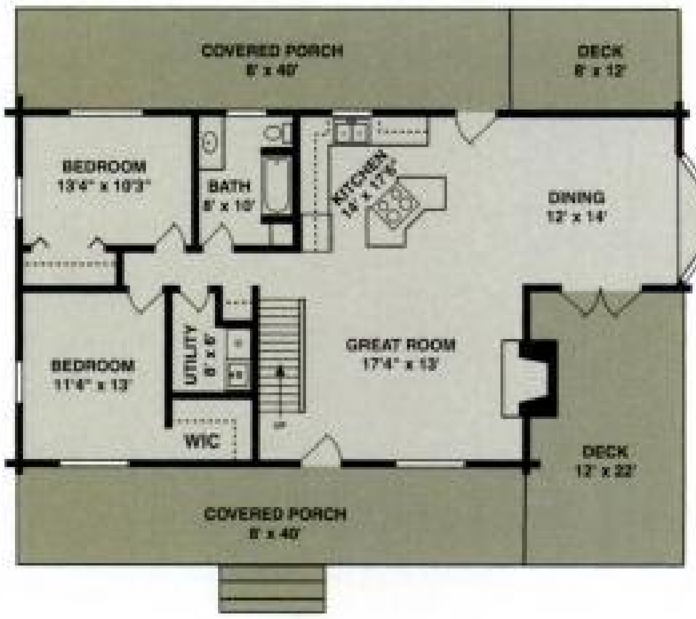
Circle Reader Response #24

THE MANATEE

First Floor: 1,264 sq. ft. | Second Floor: 819 sq. ft.
Covered Porch: 640 sq. ft. | Total Decks: 360 sq. ft.

Total Area: 2,083 sq. ft.

This home offers a living area with a fireplace and a dining room tucked off the kitchen. Upstairs is an open loft with a secluded master bedroom and private balcony.



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

THE SHENANDOAH

First Floor: 2,044 sq. ft. | Second Floor: 1,048 sq. ft.
Covered Porch: 800 sq. ft. | Total Decks: 502 sq. ft.

Total Area: 3,092 sq. ft.

This home provides many views from anywhere in the home. Large bow windows increase the light in both the dining room and the master bath, while both upstairs bedrooms have 8-foot dormers for maximum exposure.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

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FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

THE MOHICAN

Total Area: 1,692 sq. ft.
$57,000

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Just like the name implies, the Willow Creek is a place for relaxing and making memories. The great room is especially inviting with a stone fireplace and loads of sitting room. The kitchen/dining area can accommodate formal dining with its openness or casual dining at the breakfast bar. A utility room off the kitchen comes complete with a work sink. The large master bedroom is tucked away on the first floor and has a large closet and a full bath. Two large bedrooms upstairs have an abundance of closet space and dormer windows that create a cozy sitting area. Both bedrooms share a full bath. Also upstairs is every homeowners dream: an extra room that can be used for storage, turned into a fourth bedroom or made into that private study you've always wanted. A 22' front porch completes the charm of the Willow Creek.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

WILLOW CREEK

First Floor: 968 sq. ft. Second Floor: 968 sq. ft.
Total Area: 1,936 sq. ft.

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Circle Reader Response #43

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BRINSON

First Floor: 1,800 sq. ft. Second Floor: 1,392 sq. ft.
Total Area: 3,192 sq. ft.

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Circle Reader Response #238

With four large bedrooms, the Brinson easily accommodates families and all their guests. The large central great room is open to a comfortable kitchen and dining room. A large wall of windows flanks the fireplace to offer great outdoor views while cozying up around the fire. Two covered porches in front and one in back allow outdoor entertaining rain or shine while two large dormers maximize space in the upstairs bedrooms.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

LIVING STONE

First Floor: 1,644 sq. ft. Second Floor: 988 sq. ft.
Total Area: 2,632 sq. ft.

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FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

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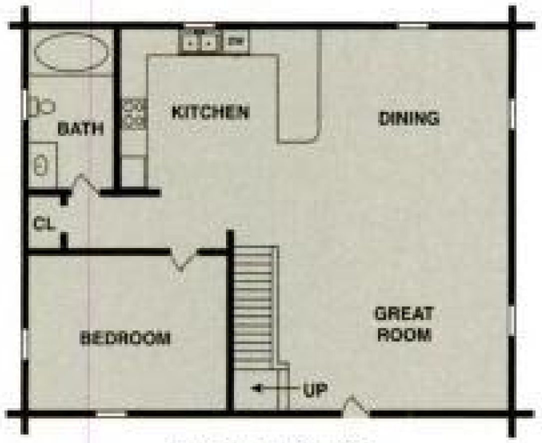
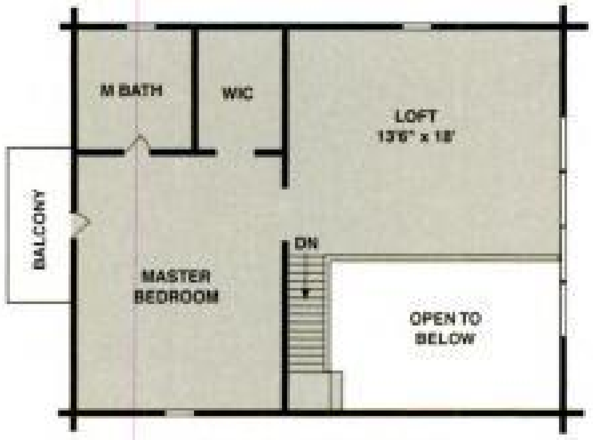
The Glacier is a two- to three-bedroom home with an open floorplan. The kitchen flows into the dining and great rooms to create a spacious feel. With a vaulted roofline in the great room, you'll get the sense of a much larger home at a very reasonable cost.



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

THE GLACIER

Total Area: 1,437 sq. ft.

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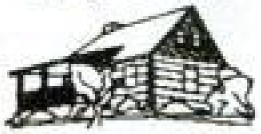

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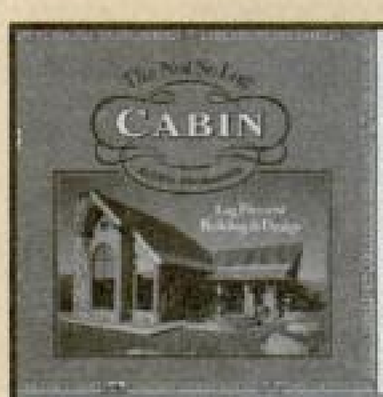

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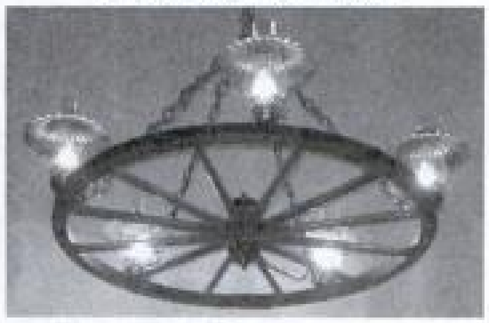

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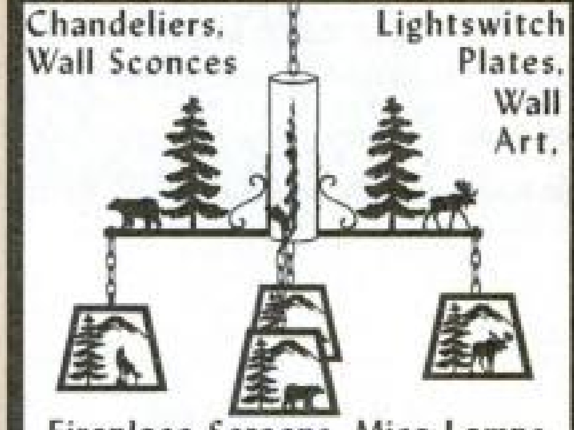

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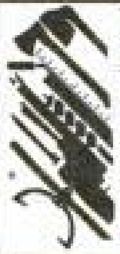

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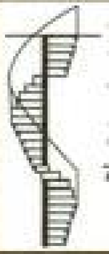

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(b) complete the electronic form on the Log Home Design Ideas website, www.lhdi.com. Log Home Design Ideas is not responsible for failed, incomplete, illegible or misdirected entries; garbled computer transmissions or technical failures of any kind; network system failures; typographical errors; or any other conditions or events beyond its control.

(2) Mail entries must be postmarked between December 11, 2003, and October 8, 2004; electronic entries must be submitted between 9 a.m. CST on December 11, 2003, and 11:59 p.m. CST on October 8, 2004.

(3) One entry per person.

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